THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

COMPOUND SUBTRACTION BY SIMPLE ADDITION.

"Go to, sirrah," said Jack Cade to Stafford, "go to, sirrah: tell the king from me that for his father's sake, Henry the Fifth, in whose time boys went to span-counter for French crowns, I am content, he shall reign; but I'll be protector over him." This is rich enough, in all conscience—but our legislators outdo this a long way. They are content that the Bible should be the supreme authority in matters ecclesiastical, but then they will be protectors over it—stamp it with their sanction—cover its weakness with their strength—hide its defects with the mantle of their patronage—and condescendingly give it importance in the eyes of the people by declaring it to be their *protegé*. They are the veritable Jack Cades of the church—uttering the same boast, and acting the same part in religious affairs, which the Kentish rebel did in Richard the Second's time, in affairs purely civil. The effect, too, is much the same—it is just of a piece with that which would result from the testimony of one of the swell mob in favour of an honest man—it brings under suspicion what, until they meddled with it, could appeal to its own character and secure an honourable verdict.

We have an authorised translation of the Bible, and authorised articles of faith; we have authorised sacraments, and an authorised system of discipline—and we have in addition to all an authorised clergy. Upon every matter involved in religion government has put its mark, and affixed its label "none others are genuine." Now the doctrines and ceremonies thus honoured may be true or false—about that we do not contend. Our inquiry touches the wisdom of giving to them a practical influence by such means. We wish to ascertain whether what is authoritative in itself acquires additional authority, whether what is venerable secures additional veneration, by this legislative patronage—and whether the custom is not

"More honoured in the breach than the observance."

A system of truth designed to shape the character, may be presented to the mind in two ways—it may be gently insinuated, or it may be directly commanded. The first method calls attention to the truth—the last awakens inquiry into the authority imposing it. A man wishes to dispose of his daughter in marriage. Does he modestly remark upon her virtues, and mildly hint his wishes, the party addressed forgets the speaker, and begins to observe the fair one spoken of. But should he, imitating our wise and philosophic rulers, insist in a tone of command that his friend shall wed her, her charms would be overlooked, and the first question in reply would be "Who are *you*, Sir?" Our legislators burning with natural and pious zeal to marry Christianity to the people, at least, a certain form of Christianity which they declare to be apostolical, have adopted the latter mode; and to commend their wisdom still more highly, have likewise fixed the dowry which the people shall in this case give—and the consequence is, that Christianity bears the reproach which belongs to her professed guardian—is neglected, abused, and treated with contempt—while by far the greatest earnestness evinced by the people in the matter is to obtain from parliament a satisfactory answer to the question? "Who are you—and by what authority doest thou these things?"

As no information on this point can be elicited from the ruling powers, save such as may be gleaned from pompous inanities, and ridiculous assumptions, it is but natural that the people should proceed to judge for themselves. They are not without ample materials. The personal habits, the social laws, and the public deeds, of the men composing our legislative bodies are matters which almost every newspaper thrusts before their observation. Their intellectual calibre, taking the class as a whole, is found to be not so great as to inspire all other classes with reverential awe. The code of honour by which they are ruled, visits dishonesty with no penalty, brands a violation of domestic ties with no disgrace, upholds and sanctions murder. They are men tolerably well known to be addicted to pleasure—not remarkably careful in regard to morals—often profane—generally inattentive to the claims and duties of the sabbath—almost universally contemners of that kind of Christianity which a Paul or a John explained and exemplified. All this is perfectly well understood. To do the men justice they pretend to no higher character. There is no mistaking them, therefore, and perhaps there is no man in the kingdom who, if asked in what quarter of society the best specimens of religion are to be found, would dream in his wildest moments of pointing to our Houses of Parliament. Well! these gentlemen, out of pure regard for the people, and acting out implicitly the dictates of conscience, take "the purest form of Christianity" under their protection, and authorise it as genuine, and command the people to revere it.

What is the natural consequence? The *protegé*, if looked at at all, is looked at through its self-constituted protectors—its benevolence is seen through the stained glass of their selfishness—its importance, of their negligence—its purity, of their licentiousness. Christianity in their hands becomes like the maxims of wisdom in the mouth of a fool—like lessons of chastity when uttered by an inmodest woman. The disrespect entertained towards the speaker is transferred to the thing spoken. If what they thus commend, or rather enforce, upon the consciences of the people be received, it is received with the comment of their lives as the interpretation—if rejected, it is rejected on the ground of the worthlessness of their authority. They daub religion with their dirty patronage—and having, in the estimation of the multitude, assimilated it to themselves, they lower its pretensions and debase its character, until it is embraced as a thing of easy virtue, or repelled as an imposture and a lie. There can be but one philosophical explanation of their conduct. They may imagine religion to be best administered on the homœopathic system, in doses infinitesimally small—and that it acts most potently upon vulgar hearts when given with a large admixture of their own wordliness—one drop of pure Christianity with a wine-glass full of parliament water, "before taken, to be well shaken."

History proves that our legislators thrust their hateful services upon religion, not from any concern to her, but simply from an eager desire to obtain through the use of her name an ample dowry. Within a few years they legislatively, to save the property, repudiated Romanism, then turned off Protestantism and took back the creature they had denounced as "a withered and filthy hag," then divorced her again and associated themselves with Prelacy, her daughter. We see no sort of reason why they should not establish the religion of the false prophet of Mecca—and, we dare to say, no more do they, if by adopting it as the national faith they could make it pay more handsomely. The whole thing is a grand humbug, to use their own most elegant phraseology—and the nauseous hypocrisy with which some of them talk of their fears that Christianity could never be sustained by the voluntary principle, must surely disgust even themselves.

If wit of man were taxed to devise means by which what is majestic in religion should be made to appear contemptible—what is lovely, odious—what is sweet, sour and offensive—we know nothing which could be hit upon so certain of answering the end, as putting it under the special patronage of our civil rulers. In their own sphere, in temporal matters, they have no superfluous respect to lose—but in spiritual things, their friendship and patronage are the surest pledges of ruin—and whatever they touch, they invariably defile.

GUY FAWKES.

WE cannot refrain from offering our hearty congratulations to the clergy of the establishment, on the decided and ample evidence displayed last Friday in the metropolis (we cannot answer for the provinces) of the genuine protestant feeling still subsisting among us. In sooth our spirits had begun to give way, and our faith to fail, in anticipation of the speedy re-ascendancy in these realms of the Romish church—for agitating clergymen and Reformation-society proceedings had succeeded, by mere dint of noisy iteration, in hammering into our minds an idea that Protestantism had sunk down to its lees, and that the true savour of it remained now only with the clergy. That "day of days," however, the fifth of November—that first, best guage of the sound religion of the people—that tap in the great ecclesiastico-political butt, the church of England, turned by the hand of time, let out in our streets such copious streams of Protestantism as sufficed to wash all our fears into the common sewer of unbelief. Not that we can testify to the numbers, or the devout earnestness, of those who went to church, to render "unfeigned thanks and praise for the wonderful and mighty deliverance of our gracious Sovereign King James the first, &c., by popish treachery appointed as sheep to the slaughter," for unhappily our secular occupations would not allow us to "keep holyday." But of the sincere zeal of the rising generation of the "poor man's church" against papistry, and of the general good feeling which

prevails among our metropolitan population in favour of the purest and most tolerant church in the world, the ebullitions on Guy Fawkes' day were truly cheering. All faces, save here and there one, wore a pleasant smile; as though the hearts, to which those faces were the windows, were gladsome within the bosom. The exceptions, we cannot doubt, were either "papists, infidels, or dissenters," and probably were meditating underground mischief against the church. At first, we own, we mistook the cause of all the seeming hilarity, and attributed it to the grotesque effigies of the arch-conspirator which met us in every street, duly borne and attended by national-school students. But we suppose we were mistaken. Be that as it may, the small processions just adverted to, and the beautiful chanting of sacred song by the youngsters, might be seen and heard in every corner of the metropolitan suburbs. The tender minds of these juvenile churchmen—these embryo defenders of the faith, were typically impressed with the abominations of popery by the uncouth features of the image they escorted; and all their amiable dispositions were familiarised with the restraints which religious zeal sometimes imposes upon them, by roasting straw-stuffed papists at their evening bonfire. All this appeared to us a beautiful specimen of allegorical instruction, and as explained by the lines—

"Remember, remember,
The fifth of November,
Gunpowder treason and plot"—

could not possibly fail of its appointed use. One thing, however, struck us as enigmatical. The 'Guys' invariably had a short pipe stuck in the mouth. As we do not remember to have heard that Fawkes himself was partial to tobacco, we were compelled to interpret the thing as a symbol, and can only explain it to our own satisfaction as a covert satire upon Rome—a little memento that her barbarous plot, her "horrible and wicked enterprise," terminated in *smoke*. We may be wrong, and we feel the subject to be too important to allow of dogmatism. In truth, our object was not to interpret this annual ecclesiastical raree-show—but rather to assure our readers that protestantism is not at so low an ebb in this kingdom as was represented; and that the inhabitants of the metropolis, at all events, despite the calumnies with which they have been loaded—

"—— see no reason
Why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot."

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS.

A NEW and very ingenious mode of church extension has been hit upon by the Bishop of London, to which we beg to invite the attention of our readers. It is self-sustaining, and if acted upon with energy, will, we doubt not, prove very effective. It consists in the establishment of proprietary schools, the ostensible object of which is, "to afford the advantages of a cheap and sound religious education to the children of the middle classes, according to the doctrines and discipline of the church of England, and under the immediate superintendence of the clergy." It is, we believe, the intention of the bishop to connect one of these institutions with every district church in and around the metropolis.

We happen to be acquainted with a particular instance which we submit as a specimen—it is that of St. Peter's commercial school, Globe Road, Mile End. The management of this institution is placed in the hands of four trustees, the clergyman of the parish, the Rev. Thomas Jackson son of a methodist minister, and three laymen. The reverend gentleman, in this as in all similar cases, takes the leading active part, not only in the management of the school, but in receiving and disbursing all monies connected with it. A handsome building for the accommodation of 120 boys has been erected near the church, and to St. Peter's every pupil is required to go, unless satisfactory reasons can be given to the aforesaid Rev. T. Jackson for his declining to do so. There are (or are to be, if they can be got) 120 shareholders, who are to receive five per cent. for the use of their money, or the privilege of introducing pupils at a reduced rate—and as might have been anticipated, the most unscrupulous means have been eagerly resorted to during the past six months, for the purpose of getting parents to remove their sons from the tuition of dissenters, and as consistent members of the establishment supporting the above school. The Bishop of London and his Grace of Canterbury are to examine and report on the state of the pupils every half-year.

Now we have no other end in view in calling public attention to this scheme, than to illustrate the position we have so often advanced, that if dissenters choose to forget their principles, churchmen do not lose sight of theirs; and that unless they presently bestir themselves, the next generation even of the middle clasess will know nothing whatever of nonconforming principles. Such proceedings as those detailed above will very speedily sap the strength of every dissenting congregation in the metropolis. What then is to be done? Done! Why cease grumbling, and go to work! Let dissenting proprietary schools rise up in every district, in which the great principles of the voluntary system shall be instilled into the minds of our rising youth—and if judiciously managed, without resorting to unjust methods, a cheap education of the highest class may be offered to the children of dissenters, without subjecting them to the degradation of being compelled to abjure their principles, and without involving an outlay of capital nearly so great as would ultimately be spent in continuing to educate boys on the more expensive plan of private schools.

On Thursday last a vestry meeting was held at Brierly Hill, pursuant to notice, and the rector having been called to preside, proposed a rate of 2d. in the pound, seconded by Mr. Bond. A voluntary subscription was then proposed by W. Mathews, Esq., in an able speech, in which the evils consequent on the agitation of the question, were forcibly demonstrated. "Were they," he asked, "to be harassed by a levy of rates for the paltry sum of £400? (that being the sum required for the three churches for the current year)—where was their zeal for the honour of the church?" He concluded an animated speech by offering a donation of 50*l.* for his subscription, and stated that Mr. Foster would give the same amount: these examples were followed by Mr. Dixon, the rector, Dr. Pinfold, and immediately George Firmstone, Esq., gave 20*l.*, and others smaller sums of 10*l.* and 5*l.* It is calculated that 300*l.* was subscribed; thus affording a noble specimen of the triumph of the voluntary principle.—*Staffordshire Examiner.*

A few months ago Messrs. Varty and Mopsey, the churchwardens of Hackney, commenced proceedings in the ecclesiastical court against six individuals, whose united arrears of church rate amounted to 1*l.* 7s. 2d. The sum due from two of the parties (poor men) is 2s. 8d. each. Previously to taking this step, however, the churchwardens sought the best advice which money could procure. Counsel was consulted as to the probability of successfully recovering the 1*l.* 7s. 2d., the charge for which consultation, in their lately printed accounts, is 22*l.* 12s. 4d.; five guineas to Dr. Addams, and the odd seventeen pounds to the vestry clerk for drawing the case.

POOR LAW THEOLOGY AND INTOLERANCE.

On Tuesday, the 12th October, at a meeting of the Board of Guardians of the City of London Union, Mr. George Simmons gave a notice of motion to the following effect, which notice was regularly entered upon the minutes:—

"That this board, considering the prayer attached to the lessons to be learned by those who are to be confirmed, unsuitable, desire its use to be discontinued."

At the board, on the following Tuesday, it was resolved that the Rev. Mr. Brown, chaplain of the Norwood establishment, be requested to attend the board on Tuesday, the 26th; and some displeasure was expressed by certain gentlemen, in Mr. Simmons's absence, that the notice of motion was allowed to be placed on the books.

On Tuesday, the 26th, after the general routine business of the board was brought to a close, the chairman, Michael Gibbs, Esq., sheriff, said he regretted, that, by some oversight, a notice of motion had been placed upon the books, printed and circulated amongst the guardians, with a copy of the prayer, published by the "Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge" (as agreed upon at a meeting of the board on the 12th). He must object to its discussion, as bearing upon a subject which the board could not recognise, and, indeed, which ought not to be discussed. The pauper children at Norwood were supposed to belong to the church of England, and the prayer, &c., was recognised and approved of by the bishops and clergy; and the board could not interfere. Several gentlemen approved of these sentiments, and quite thought as the chairman did, that it was not a proper question for the board to entertain. Others were of a different opinion, and could not understand what business the meeting had to hinder the discussion.

Mr. Simmons replied to these objections, and stated that he considered the chairman was attempting to exercise a most unwarrantable and unjustifiable interposition. The notice of motion was fairly given at a meeting of the "Board of Guardians of the City of London;" and, this being the day appointed for its discussion, it was monstrous to meet the thing in such an ungentlemanly and unfair way. Some gentlemen had said—"What business had they to touch a theological question?"

My reply is, we have a perfect right to touch any and every question involving the interests of these children. As guardians, we are their protectors, the executive to carry out those measures contemplated by the poor law; which, though capable of improvement, has never, in my opinion, deserved the opposition recently made to it by some who stick at no mean or despicable artifice to gain their end. The benefit and character of the measure will depend greatly upon those who administer the law. It is upon this account we should keep a watchful eye upon our office bearers. I cannot understand why a chaplain should be freed from the responsibility, and accountability too, which rests upon the various officers in the establishment, any more than Mr. Rowsell, the clerk. It is, I consider, our business to see that they do their duty; and, because I find error placed in the hands of the children, and erroneous notions impressed upon their minds, I stand before you to-day.

Mr. S. contended that his object was to prevent the spread of popery,

My motion is intended to keep out popery from an establishment where hundreds of young minds are being formed, under a system which will either send them out into society the better or the worse. With notions such as those contained in the prayer referred to, they go out mistaken, and in error of the worst possible kind. I am told by the chairman, "It is taken from the prayer book." I can only say, wherever it is taken from, it is the essence of popery.

In proof of this he quoted the beginning of the prayer—"O most blessed God, by whose grace I was called into a state of salvation when I was baptised, &c.,"—and said,

Sir, I am told by you and other gentlemen, members of this board, that this language does not mean what it says, but that it means something else. The question returns, What is the impression made upon the mind of a child by such language, not what do members of the church of England who have arrived at years of maturity think of it? It is distressing to think of such notions being instilled into the minds of the young.

The Chairman took out a small book from his pocket, apparently a prayer book, saying it contained the language of the prayer, and ought to be learned, as it was a part of the service commanded by the church; and, as the children were members of that church, it was right to teach it.

It was asked how the children came to be members of the church of England, many of them being orphans, o hers the children of nobody knows who, and it was hardly fair to come to such a conclusion.

Mr. Simmons then read a portion of the lecture recently delivered by the Rev. Dr. Burder, of Hackney, entitled "The doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration unscriptural and pernicious;" but was compelled by frequent interruptions, after directing the attention of the board in general, and the chairman in particular, to the language of the Rev. Thos. Scott, to say,—I find the truth is not welcome here. If you can meet the statements brought forward this day with fair argument, and disprove them, do so; but I must protest against the mode which has been adopted by gentlemen of this board on the present occasion. I now move,

"That this board, considering the prayer attached to the lessons to be learned by those who are to be confirmed, unsuitable, desire its use to be discontinued."

Mr. W. H. Mills seconded the motion.

The Chairman then, although nobody knows who made the motion, said, an amendment is proposed, "That this board do now adjourn;" which, in the midst of much confusion, was carried.

An instance of clerical intolerance similar to that we recently noticed as having taken place at Marden, but if anything, of a grosser description, has, we are informed, been exhibited in this parish. A poor man of the name of Godwin, by trade a cooper, who was born and educated a dissenter, of the baptist connection, after being discharged from the infirmary in consumption, having a wife and family of nine children, became an object of charity among the wealthier inhabitants of the established church. This brought him into contact with the clergyman of the parish, by whom, in the last stage of his illness, he was prevailed on to submit to be baptised according to the forms of the church. The poor man survived the ceremony but a short time, and when his corpse was taken to be interred, it was, to the grief of the widow (who with difficulty had scraped together the burial fees), refused admission into the body of the church, because, as it was alleged, the poor man had not, in the interval, joined the congregation, or received the sacrament. The poor man, towards his last moments, expressed a wish to be visited by his former religious instructor, but was deterred from doing so lest it should operate to the injury of his family. In unison with this bigotry, the officiating ministers have been of late unremittingly enforcing upon the diminished congregation, the authority of the clergy, as the immediate successors of the apostles, the duty of not only entire submission, but of implicit reverence towards them, as the vicegerents of God—the infallible saving grace and virtue of baptism and confirmation—and other papistical doctrines and observances, to the entire disgust even of the less informed part of the congregation, many of whom have been driven from the church, and numerous others threaten to follow their example.—*Wiltshire Independent.*

On Thursday evening a meeting of the members and friends of the Protestant Association took place in the large room of Exeter Hall. In the absence of Lord Kenyon, the chair was taken by G. P. Smith, Esq. After a prayer by the Rev. Tennison Cuffe, the chairman stated the object of the meeting, which was to celebrate, first the happy deliverance of the nation from the popish conspiracy of the year 1605; and, secondly, the glorious Revolution of 1688. George Holden, Esq., proposed the first resolution, which was to the effect, that the unfeigned thanks of the meeting were due to Almighty God for his goodness in delivering the nation from the popish conspiracy, and for granting to it the blessings of the protestant revolution, which, having been seconded by James Lord, Esq., was carried amidst applause. The meeting was then addressed by the Rev. Brabazon Ellis, the Rev. H. Seymour, and several other gentlemen. On the platform were the Rev. Dr. Niblock, the Rev. Dr. Cuthbert, the Rev. Mr. Thelwall, the Rev. Mr. Cox, and several others.

We are enabled to announce another important and remarkable conversion to the ancient faith, in the person of the Rev. Mr. Sibthorp, the brother of the celebrated ultra tory member for Lincoln. This gentleman was received into the bosom of the catholic church, at St. Mary's College, Oscott, on Wednesday last, by the Right Rev. Dr. Wiseman, and the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Spencer, himself a convert, and brother of Lord Spencer.—*Limerick Reporter.*

A correspondent makes himself merry with the fact, that on the back of the *Wesleyan Magazine* for November is an advertisement of an excellent assortment of "sporting coats" for sale; and he asks whether the Wesleyan ministers are about to imitate the clergy in "sporting," as he observes that no less than 72 of the clerical "successors of the apostles" have taken out licences to shoot game in the county of York.—*Leeds Mercury.*

A correspondent of the *Salopian Journal* says:—"It is believed that Sir Robert Peel has a plan of church extension in view; yet it is not so much church extension as providing for the better management of the church. To effect this it is believed that (to be paid out of the revenues at present belonging to the church) several suffragan bishops will be appointed; none of these to have seats in parliament, but to be the successors elect to and associates with the present bishops."

In the Arches' Court on Tuesday week, articles were exhibited, at the instance of the Bishop of Oxford, against the Rev. W. H. Langley, perpetual curate of Wheatley, for "brawling in the church." On the 9th of May last, it appeared that after reading the *Gloria Patri*, the curate addressed the congregation, and among other expressions the following was objected to by the bishop:—"'I have been charged with adultery, but the fact is, that one night as I was coming from my tenant's at Lobb Farm, I saw a drunken man ill-treating his wife, and I interfered for her protection, for my being a clergyman did not prevent my acting with humanity towards a female under such circumstances. The man told me I might be damned: what was it to me? what had I to do with it? He then struck me, but the Lord gave me power, and I knocked the man down," at the same time using the action of striking with your fist, in illustration of the manner in which you struck the said man." And again, "that you then adverted to her Majesty's ministers, and the proposed alteration in the corn laws, and declared that the ministers deserved praise for enabling every one to worship God according to their own conscience, and for wishing to give to every man a cheap loaf: that all who had votes would soon be called upon to give them, and you urged them to give them in favour of the then ministers, and added, 'God bless the present government.'" The articles were admitted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE NATIONAL DAILY BREAD SOCIETY AND THE MANCHESTER LEAGUE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Inasmuch as many of your readers take great interest in the anti-corn-law agitation, I have to call their attention to the fact of the Manchester Council of the Anti-corn-law League having issued a notice in the last number of their official publication, the *Anti-bread-tax Circular*, to invite deputies from the different associations, to assemble on the 17th, in order to arrange the plan of the ensuing campaign, and at the same time withholding from the associations the important fact, that the movement had been in a great measure determined by the people themselves.

During the visit of Colonel Thompson to Manchester, who was invited here by the operatives, because he has more the confidence of the intelligent portion of the working classes than has any one of the Council of the League, or indeed than any other public man, without exception, a meeting of the Operative Anti-bread-tax Association and the working classes generally, was held to take steps for the total and immediate repeal of the corn and provision laws, at which it was resolved that the people ought forthwith to originate and carry out some great national movement for this object, as well as to obtain compensation for past oppression, and that a meeting should be held to consist of all the various interests of the working classes; accordingly, circulars were issued to the trade's unions, the different manufactories and mills, where large numbers of persons are employed, and other large bodies of working men. A meeting, consisting of them, of the Operative Anti-bread-tax Association, and the working classes generally, was convened. This meeting was held on the 25th of October, but a few disorderly persons (for even a very small minority may create much confusion) having disturbed the proceedings, the meeting was dissolved by the chairman without putting the resolution, and therefore without accomplishing the objects for which it had been convened, and it was re-assembled on Tuesday last.

The second meeting was conducted in the most orderly manner, and though really and mainly a meeting of the working classes, there was a considerable number of the middle class also, including some of the more liberal portion of the League themselves; and the meeting takes additional importance, from the fact that many of the deputations represented bodies of many thousands. The result was a resolution that a meeting of deputies of working men, from all parts of the kingdom, should be invited to assemble in Manchester on the 1st of January, to take up the question, and in the meantime.

"That, with a view to its being shown, peaceably and orderly, that there is little hope of a repeal of the corn and provision laws unless the people show their determination not to endure them, and on the principle that taxation without representation is unconstitutional and unjust, it is the opinion of this meeting that the plan of the National Daily Bread Society should be put into active operation in Manchester forthwith, so that by the time of the deputations assembling the results may be seen, and they, on their return, may spread it in their respective localities, and that this assembly will strenuously exert themselves in its promulgation."

This resolution was carried by the unanimous voice of the assembly, and a committee appointed to concur with the committee previously existing for carrying it out with additional energy and spirit.

Now, what may have been the motive which induced the council of the League, under whose special superintendance the anti-bread-tax circular is published, to withhold information of this great and important anti-bread-tax movement may not be obvious to those who have had no opportunity of seeing the machinery and springs which are at work in the councils and behind the councils of the League. We merely give the fact of the occurrence from our own observations, corroborated as it is by the *Manchester Advertiser* and *Manchester Guardian* of Saturday last; and the total omission of all mention of the proceedings in the anti-bread-tax circular, may be learnt from the publication itself.

Is this suppression of such a mighty fact because, being a meeting of the working classes, it is beneath the dignity of the League? No, no!—they know something of the power of the people, and we know much more. Is it that they wish to keep the deputies who are to assemble on the 17th in ignorance of this important movement, and try to supersede it by some petty, paltry tactics or manœuvre? or is it, as some of your readers may shrewdly imagine, that they wish to keep the movement entirely in their own hands and under their own control, so as to be able to make terms of half-measures with a tory, as they would have done with a whig, government, and that they might be able to say, on the one hand, see what we *could* do if we chose, but if you'll give us thus much for the people, and something for ourselves, we will gently let fall the agitation; and then, turning round to the people, say, "Hav'nt we done wonders? See what we've obtained for you." But this plan won't do for the people. Those who could put aside such a man as Colonel Thompson to make way for their own friends, and in order to be considered themselves the great champions of free trade, may be suited for auqiliaries, but not to have the absolute control of the mighty movement. The people must have full justice, and they must have fair play too, and it is not fair play to endeavour to suppress the best friend of the people, or the movements of the people.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

JAMES HILL, Author of "Daily Bread."

Manchester. Nov. 8, 1841.

[We insert this letter in justice to the League. If such suspicions respecting them are afloat, the members of the council ought to know it—and have an opportunity of explaining their movements.]

GENERAL POLITICS.

CHINA AND INDIA.

The intelligence from China, which in consequence of the arrival at Bombay of the steamer *Atalanta* extends to the 24th of August, is of far higher interest than any from other quarters which has arrived by this express. By the *Atalanta*, the late Plenipotentiary, Captain Elliot, and the ex-Commodore, Sir J. J. Gordon Bremer, arrived from Canton, and proceeded by the overland mail through Egypt.

Sir Henry Pottinger and the new Admiral, Sir William Parker, arrived at Macao on the 9th of August, and proceeded without delay to execute their important duties. In the *Hongkong Gazette* of the 12th a notification was published by the new Plenipotentiary, and a copy of his own commission from the British Crown. Both documents are of high importance, and the former is annexed.

"NOTIFICATION.

"In taking charge of the offices of her Majesty's sole Plenipotentiary, Minister Extraordinary, and Chief Superintendent of British trade in China, Sir Henry Pottinger deems it requisite and proper to publicly notify, that he enters on his important functions with the most anxious desire to consult the wishes, and to promote the prosperity and well-being, as well as to provide for and secure the safety, of all her Majesty's subjects, and other foreigners (so far as the concerns of the latter can be affected by his proceedings), at this moment residing in any part of the dominions of the Emperor of China; and that he will be ready and happy, at all times and under all circumstances, to give his best attention to any questions that may be submitted to him. At the same time, it becomes his first duty to distinctly intimate, for general and individual information, that it is his intention to devote his undivided energies and thoughts to the primary object of securing a speedy and satisfactory close of the war, and that he therefore can allow no consideration connected with mercantile pursuits, and other interests, to interfere with the strong measures which he may find it necessary to authorise and adopt towards the government and subjects of China, with a view to compelling an honourable and lasting peace.

"Sir Henry Pottinger is conscious that amongst the persons to whom this notification is addressed, there are few individuals who are not as well qualified as himself to form a correct estimate of the reliance to be placed on the agreements and promises of the provincial government of Canton. He has intimated to that government that he is willing for the present to respect the existing truce, but that the slightest infraction of its terms will lead to an instant renewal of active hostilities in this province; and it is accordingly to be borne in mind that such an event is not only highly probable, from the well-understood perfidy and bad faith of the provincial officers themselves, but also because they may be compelled, at any moment by orders from the imperial cabinet, to set aside and disavow their own acts. With these views and sentiments, it only remains for Sir Henry Pottinger to warn her Majesty's subjects, and all other foreigners, against putting themselves or their property in the power of the Chinese authorities during the present anomalous and unsettled state of our relations with the empire; and to declare, that if they do so, it must be understood to be at their own risk and peril.

"Sir Henry Pottinger avails himself of this opportunity to announce that the arrangements which have been made by his predecessor, connected with the island of

Hong Kong, will remain in force until the pleasure of her Majesty regarding that island and those arrangements shall be received; and on this point Sir Henry Pottinger further desires to call the attention of all concerned to the public notice issued by her Majesty's Plenipotentiary on the 10th of June last.

"HENRY POTTINGER, Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary.

"*Dated at Macao, on the 12th day of August*, 1841."

The Plenipotentiary sent his secretary to Canton, with a notification of his appointment and arrival to the Chinese authorities. A letter is also said to have been addressed to the Emperor, to which an answer is expected at a northern station; Chusan has been named. The interference of the Kwang-chow-foo, or mayor of Canton, has been refused. He sought, as on former occasions, an interview with the British Plenipotentiary, but it was refused, and he was referred to the secretary. The imperial commissioners and the other mandarin authorities at Canton are described as alarmed by these new measures, particularly as the British expedition has proceeded to the northward. It is said that they offered a large sum of money to delay the departure of the fleet, which was declined. These decided proceedings on the part of Sir H. Pottinger have given satisfaction to the British merchants and all concerned.

On the 21st and 26th of July there were violent typhoons on the coast of China, which did much damage. During one of them a cutter, having on board the Commodore and Captain Elliot, was wrecked on the island of Kow Low, when the crews and passengers were roughly treated, but after some parleying they were, for a large ransom, taken to Macao. Two iron steamers have been sent from Bombay to join the expedition.

In India tranquillity prevails, with the exception of some disturbances excited by parties of the unruly Arab soldiers employed in the service of the Nizam. The trial of some of their men, who some months back raised disturbances in the neighbourhood of Budamee, is stated to have excited their rage, and they are anxious to attack the gaol or to make a diversion in order to produce their escape; but the British authorities are on the alert to prevent any unpleasant result. Some of these freebooters have been already condemned and executed.

The only intelligence of importance from Scinde is that the important position of Shikarpore has been ceded to the British. Major Outram has taken possession of his charge as successor to the deceased political agent, Mr. Ross Bell; the negotiations continue with Nusseer Khan, and will, it is hoped, soon produce favourable results.

In Affghanistan the conflicts continue between Schah Soojah's troops and the unruly mountain tribes. Several encounters took place last August between the British troops and the rebels.

In Thibet there is fighting going forward between some of the Sikhs under Zorawar Singh and the inhabitants. The former is said to have gained several victories. It is thought that some of the Nepaulese, who are also marauding in China, may soon come into contact with the Sikhs there.

From Persia or Herat there has been no late intelligence of interest. It is rumoured that Kamram is intriguing strongly against his crafty and powerful minister, for whose removal he is anxious.—*Times*.

FRANCE.

The Paris journals contain very little political news. M. Guizot has consented to a measure of electoral reform, by which all persons whose names have been placed on the jury list will be qualified to vote for members of the Chamber of Deputies. It is added, that M. Guizot has declared that he will oppose any attempt to exclude public functionaries from the Chamber, and that should such a measure be passed by the deputies, he expects to cause it to be rejected by the Chamber of Peers.

On Thursday night last a party of the police force of Paris, accompanied by detachments of the municipal guard, proceeded to several houses to arrest, it was said, various foreigners against whom warrants had been granted. No capture, however, was effected, the parties having fled as soon as the arrival of M. Van Praet, the Belgian envoy, was announced.

The *Constitutionnel* states that 3,000 seamen have been already disbanded at Toulon, and that the number discharged will amount to 5,000 before the end of the year. To justify this measure the ministerial press asserts that those seamen may be recalled at the end of six months.

The ex-Queen Maria Christina is seriously indisposed at her hotel in the Rue de Courcelles.

General O'Donnell left Pau on the 3d inst. for Orleans, where he was about to fix his residence. The other generals and superior officers belonging to the late insurgent army, who were permitted to remain at Pau provisionally, were ordered to repair to Tours and Orleans.

SPAIN.

The Spanish news is not important. Madrid letters of the 30th ult. state, that at that date that capital continued to enjoy the most perfect tranquillity. The Infant Don Francisco de Paula, accompanied by Count De Parsent, arrived at Tudela on the 23d. They were still in that city on the 26th, and it was believed they would shortly proceed to Valladolid.

The *Castellano* announces that the government intended to discontinue paying the allowance awarded to the ex-Queen Christina until the meeting of the Cortes, who would decide whether the country was in honour bound to pay her a pension. It was reported that the British ambassador had presented to the Queen an autograph letter from Queen Victoria, congratulating her on having so fortunately escaped falling a victim to her enemies. The Cortes would, it was thought, be convoked for the month of December.

The Balear steamer, which left Barcelona on the 31st ult., reached Marseilles on the 2nd instant. The letters brought by her are silent respecting the events which occur in that city. The Junta of Vigilance had, it appears, organised such a system of terror that the people were afraid to commit anything to paper. The demolition of the citadel was being executed with the utmost rapidity. The Committee of Public Safety, on being informed that secret agents had gone to Saragossa for the purpose of urging General Van Halen to return to Barcelona to protect the peaceable citizens, had despatched two of its members to tell the general that he would be received if he came alone, but that the inhabitants were determined to deny him admission if he presented himself at the head of his troops. The emissaries of the Committee having been arrested by one of the bands which infested the mountains of Catalonia, did not reach their destination. The Junta on hearing of the fate of their friends became outrageous, and immediately caused the bishop, his vicar-general, and several chiefs of the principal commercial houses to be arrested and thrown into prison. Very heavy contributions were daily levied by its orders, and a steam-boat company had been compelled to pay 16,000 piastres.

AMERICA.

The ship *Rochester*, Captain Woodhouse, arrived at Liverpool on Wednesday, from New York, whence she sailed on the 16th ult., bringing papers one day later than those brought by the steam-ship *Acadia*. The papers contain nothing of interest additional to the intelligence last received.

The *New York Herald* has the following remarks on the present state and future prospects of the affairs of the United States:—

"Public affairs are beginning to assume a different and more flattering aspect in this country. The acquittal and release of M'Leod takes out of the category of differences with Great Britain the only question of imminent risk, and the mode of proceeding heretofore suggested will very likely lead to an amicable adjustment of them all. In relation to financial matters everything is becoming sound, healthy, and prosperous; and all the indications justify the expectation of a permanent re-establishment of the prosperity of the country. We are going on well, and the recent popular demonstrations ensure us against any future legislative tinkering with exchanges and the currency. There is an overwhelming majority of the people opposed to a national bank, whether of exchange or local discount, and the elections now in progress will make this fact manifest to all. President Tyler will be sustained in both his vetoes, and the ultra-revolutionary whig party thrown into a helpless minority. It is understood that the next Congress will adopt some scheme of finance adequate to the purposes of the government, founded on its credit, and furnishing a national currency, but it will have no connexion with accommodation discounts. This prolific source of corruption is dried up for ever. The people will never again permit the creation of such an engine of mischief and ruin. A fiscal agent for the government, judiciously managed, will do an immense deal towards enforcing the resumption of specie payments in the south and west, and nothing else is wanting to assure the prosperity of all parts of the country."

The *Savannah Republican* of the 9th ult. states, that an attempt at insurrection had been made by some negroes in South Carolina, but which was discovered in time to disappoint their designs. Much excitement prevailed in the neighbourhood, and it was thought that the parties implicated would suffer the extreme penalty of the law. In New Orleans and Vicksburg the yellow fever continues to prevail, and is very fatal.

The New York packet ship *England*, Captain B. L. Waite, arrived at Liverpool on Monday night, after a favourable passage of 19 days. She sailed from New York on her regular day, the 19th ult., and brings papers to that date, being three days later than the last arrival. The papers contain no news of importance or of general interest, if we except the continued assurances of peace.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

On Monday night a very numerous meeting of the members of the St. Luke Anti-Monopoly Association, and the inhabitants of the parish of St. Luke, Middlesex, opponents of the obnoxious corn laws, was held at the spacious room of the National Institution, Cowper street, City road, for the purpose of agreeing to resolutions declaratory of their opposition to the corn laws and all monopolies. Colonel P. Thompson having been appointed to the chair, Mr. Allen read the address of the Anti-Monopoly Association of the parish of St. Luke, the object of which was to convene the present meeting. Mr. Walker stated that a provisional committee had been formed to carry out the objects of the association, and that it remained for that meeting to appoint a committee to fulfil those intentions. Having moved a resolution to that effect, an amendment was moved in favour of the charter; but after some conversation between Mr. Wakley, M.P., the Chairman, and some others, the amendment was withdrawn and the original resolution passed unanimously. Mr. Palliseer moved, and Mr. Carr seconded, a resolution, which called for a union of the middle and working classes in support of the national rights, which was also carried unanimously.

On Monday night, a numerous meeting of the friends and admirers of Mr. Bronterre O'Brien, was held in the Crown and Anchor Tavern, to congratulate that gentleman on his liberation from prison, and return to London; Mr. Neagle, a working man, was called to the chair. Mr. O'Brien was received with loud cheering, and in the course of his speech said—It was delightful to see 2,000 honest faces after seeing nothing but the faces of thieves for the last eighteen months. He did not come there to teach and lecture the people; he came to show them that he was the same man now as he was before he went into prison [cheers]. The past had neither subdued nor changed him. He for one was for going onward for the charter. He had attended 41 meetings during the 45 days he had been out of prison, and not one of these meetings had proved a failure.

A public meeting of the inhabitants of Hackney, Kingsland, and Stoke Newington, was held on Thursday evening at the British School-rooms, Kingsland-road, for the purpose of forming a district anti-corn-law association, in connection with the central society. The spacious rooms were densely crowded, and a large number of the most influential inhabitants of the district were present. A considerable assemblage of ladies were accommodated round the platform. George Offer, Esq. (the magistrate), was unanimously called to the chair. The secretary, Mr. F. Dalton, read letters from R. Mills, Esq., John Scoble, Esq., Mr. Miall, G. Ovenden, Esq., and other gentlemen expressing their warmest approval of the object of the meeting. A resolution was passed appointing John Scoble, Esq., president; George Dunn, Esq., treasurer; F. Dalton, Esq., secretary; and Messrs. F. Clark, T. Pryor, T. Green, Wilkins and May, the committee, with power to add to their number. A number of gentlemen entered their names as members of the association, and a petition for total and immediate repeal received numerous signatures.

On Friday evening a numerous and most respectable body of gentlemen assembled at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, to celebrate the forty-seventh anniversary of the acquittal of Hardy, Tooke, Thelwell, and others, on their trial for high treason. About 120 sat down to an excellent dinner. Colonel Peyronnet Thompson took the chair.

The fifth anniversary of the London Maritime institution was celebrated on Friday at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, where upwards of sixty naval and mercantile gentlemen sat down to dinner. Sir George Cockburn filled the chair.

On Wednesday a Court of Directors was held at the East India House, when the Right Hon. Lord Ellenborough was sworn in as Governor-general of India. His Lordship afterwards dined with the Directors at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate street, when they were honoured with the company of her Majesty's ministers, and many other distinguished personages.

The following candidates have obtained honours at the Matriculation Examination for 1841, at the University of London, Somerset House;—In Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.—Joseph Anthony Spencer, University College; Samuel Gosnell Green, Stepney College; Russell Scott Taylor, Manchester New College; Joseph Ash Baynes, Stepney College; and Frederick Rymer, St. Edmund's College. In Classics.—Bunnell Lewis, University College; Joseph Ash Baynes, Stepney College; Thomas Beevor, University College; and Samuel Gosnell Green, Stepney College. In Natural History.—Joseph Ash Baynes, Stepney College. To Messrs. Spencer and Lewis an exhibition of 30l. a year, tenable for two years, has been awarded by the Senate; and to Mr. Baynes, a prize of books of the value of 5l.

The Gresham College lectures for the present November term commenced on Wednesday, at the City of London School, in Cheapside, when the Reverend Professor Puller delivered the first of a course of two lectures on astronomy. These lectures are by far the best attended of the session, with the exception of those on music, and upwards of 100 persons were present.

A recent discovery of jewels in the Exchequer Office has been the subject of much conversation during the last week. The treasure found is said to be of considerable value, and, according to all appearances, it has been hid for one hundred and fifty years—plainly for more than a century. The most probable surmise is, that the jewels were pledged in the reign either of Charles the Second or James the Second, princes who observed no remarkable regularity in their financial operations. We think it worth the while to say so much upon the subject, because the value of the discovery has, we believe, been exaggerated, and the circumstance made the subject of idle comment.—*Standard, Nov. 5.*

Tuesday week being the first day of Michaelmas Term, the Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst gave the customary *dejeuner* at his private residence in George street, Hanover square, to the judges and leading members of the bar. Being the first since his appointment, the noble and learned lord was honoured by a very numerous attendance. The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Lord Mayor Elect and the Sheriffs, arrived at half-past ten, when the Lord Mayor Elect was sworn in. The Judges arrived shortly after eleven. The two new Vice-Chancellors, Mr. Knight Bruce and Mr. Wigram, took the oaths of office. At the conclusion of the entertainment, the noble and learned lord and the judges, proceeded in procession to open the courts of law at Westminster.

The fire in the western angle of the great armoury at the tower was raging the whole of Friday evening up to ten o'clock. The regalia and jewels have been conveyed to Messrs. Rundle and Bridge's for safe custody. The inquiry at the Ordnance department was proceeding with all last week.

The Dukes of Marlborough and Wellington, on their visiting the tower on Friday, were observed accidentally viewing at the same time the smouldering embers of the trophies from the two great fields of Blenheim and Waterloo.

It is said that nine thousand pounds weight of gunpowder was thrown into the Thames during the fire at the Tower. The gunpowder was deposited in the vaults under the White Tower, the walls of which are six feet thick. It would seem to have been a very unnecessary waste of property, as it might as easily, and with quite as much safety, have been taken away in barges.

Speaking of the fire at the tower the *Wiltshire Independent* says:—"It seems that although there is a high constable in the person of the Duke of Wellington, a deputy constable, and a lieutenant of the tower, not one of these important, and we doubt not, well paid functionaries, resides in the tower. Indeed, so much of a sinecure is the office of high constable, that it was not until the fire had been raging six hours, that his Grace of Wellington was informed that anything was amiss in that building which he is so well paid to guard, and which, from his military predilections, ought to be so very dear to him. We trust that this also will be inquired into. If the offices of high constable and of deputy constable be superfluous, in the name of all that is good let them be abolished, and let the starving millions be exonerated from the charge of keeping them up."

A dreadful fire has taken place in the tower of London, which has destroyed nothing worse than a lot of old armour and muskets. We beg leave to suggest the propriety of petitioning that the muskets may not be replaced. May we hope that this event is prophetic of a state of society when the instruments of war shall be regarded as so much useless lumber, fit only to be consumed.—*Perth Chronicle.*

Another party connected with the fraud in Exchequer Bills has been taken into custody. His name is Rapallo. The examination of the bills at the office is being carried on with all possible dispatch; but, in consequence of the large number to be examined, it is thought the examination will occupy the whole of this month. The frauds, it is proved, have extended to bills for 500*l.* as well as 1000*l.*; and this has greatly increased the alarm on the subject amongst the bankers and the public.

Mr. E. B. Smith, who stands charged with the forgery of Exchequer Bills, was on Friday brought before the magistrates of Bow-street. The depositions taken against him at the hearing were read over, some few questions were asked, and he was committed to Newgate to take his trial. Mr. Rapallo was remanded from the Mansion-house, and will be again brought up on the 17th instant. On him heavier suspicions now rest, from Mr. Smith's statement, than we should infer from his own account that he voluntarily went to the treasury to give information. Mr. Smith's statement, however, that he did not sign the bills, which was done by another hand than his, as he would not sign his declaration, is perhaps to be taken as one of the last efforts of a man guilty of many subterfuges to conceal his greatest delinquency. At present no other person is implicated than these two gentlemen, and they share all the guilt betwixt them.—*Sun.*

The sheriffs of London (Alderman Magnay and Mr. Rogers) had an interview with Sir J. Graham, at the Home Office, on Saturday morning, respecting the appointment of a day for the execution of Blakesley, for the murder of Mr. Burdon. Monday next the 15th inst., is the day fixed on which the sentence of the law will be carried into effect on this wretched man.

It is estimated that there are in the metropolis 26,000 journeymen tailors, of whom 17,000 are at this moment out of work. This season of the year is always unfavourable for the employment of this class of workmen, but it rarely happens that more than one-third of the whole number is unemployed. At present those without work amount to nearly two-thirds of the whole number. There are also more than 1,100 printers now out of work, and the condition of journeymen shoemakers is equally deplorable. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that the number of deaths should exceed those experienced last year. We find on comparing the returns of the Registrar-General during the last five weeks, with the corresponding five weeks of 1840, that the numbers are now uniformly greater than last year. Deaths in week ending 11th Sept., 1840, 853—1841, 869; 18th 1840, 821—1841, 877; 25th 1840, 838—1841, 857; 2d Oct., 1840, 857—1841, 883; 9th, 1840, 794—1841, 886. With these figures before us, and without any reasonable ground for expecting improvement as regards the price of food or the means of employment, what a dreary prospect does this open to us for the coming winter!—*Facts and Figures.*

Entwistle and Bestow, the master of the workhouse and relieving overseer of the parish of St. Matthew, Bethnal green, in consequence of the over-crowded state of the workhouse, have been to Norwood for the purpose of endeavouring to obtain accommodation for 106 children, boys and girls; and Stokes, the parochial constable, proceeded to Bromley, to see if he could provide an asylum for 100 aged paupers. The workhouse has at present in it above 800 paupers, and about 1,200 receive out-door relief. The applicants have been gradually increasing for the last few weeks, and it is expected that they will be still more numerous in consequence of the many now out of employment, and of many more being said to be about to be discharged. A large manufacturer of silk a short time ago sent 50 weavers away, and it is said that the same number will be turned off in a few days. In the parish of Spitalfields the workhouse is in the same crowded state as is that of Bethnal green.

The total number of deaths in the metropolis for the week ending Oct. 30, was 792; of which number 393 were males, and 399 females. The total gives 134 less than the weekly average for the years 1838, 1839, and 1840. The proportion of deaths from diseases of the lungs and other organs of respiration, commonly called "consumption," is very large, namely, 240, or more than 33 per cent. upon the whole number.

PROVINCIAL.

A meeting of deputations from the trades, workshops, mills, &c. of Manchester and Salford, was held in Carpenters' Hall, Manchester, on Tuesday week, for the purpose of adopting certain resolutions, which, in consequence of the disturbance created by chartist interruptions at a former meeting, were not put to the vote. The meeting was very well attended; the platform, the gallery, and the body of the room, being completely filled; and a more orderly and decorous assembly has seldom been held. Mr. Watkins was called on to preside, with the unanimous consent of the meeting; and, in doing so, he expressed a hope that the chartists would so conduct themselves during the evening as would prove to the world that they were entitled to the enjoyment of the privileges which they sought. Mr. Stephen Neal then came forward, and moved the following resolution, "That this meeting of deputations from various trades, mills, workshops, &c., in Manchester and Salford, and of the working classes generally, loudly protests against the injustice and injurious operations of the corn and provision monopolies, and pledges itself never to rest satisfied until monopoly is for ever done away with and compensation for years of misery is made by the aristocracy to the labouring millions; and that, in order to effect the object in view, this meeting do adopt addresses, and that it calls upon the labouring classes of Great Britain and Ireland generally, to send deputations to a conference of labouring men, to be held on new year's-day, in Manchester, for the purpose of devising some effectual means for obtaining the total repeal of the bread and provision taxes, and the compensation of the long-plundered bread eaters." Mr. J. J. Finnigan seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Mr. Daly then moved a resolution to the effect, that the meeting would use its most strenuous efforts to assist in the proposed effort for the disenthralment of the bread-eaters of Great Britain and Ireland. Mr. Baker seconded the motion. Mr. Acland then came forward, and was received with enthusiastic cheering. Having noticed the admission of Lord Stanley, that the corn laws were enacted for the purpose of raising rents, he proceeded to observe that the secret of Feargus O'Connor's advocacy of the corn laws was disclosed by that admission. He had in the county of Cork a large estate in land, which was chargeable with annuities to certain individuals, and the balance coming to him would be considerably reduced if the corn laws were repealed. Mr. A. then exhorted the chartists and repealers to united, strenuous, and continued exertions for the repeal of the corn laws, in order that bread might be obtained for the hungry and clothing for the naked.

A great meeting of the deputies of the Anti-corn-law League is to be held at Manchester on the 17th November next. Circulars have been issued from the Central Metropolitan Anti-corn-law Association to the local societies, urging upon them the great importance of their sending as large a number of deputies to the conference as possible.

A preliminary meeting of the office-bearers and deputies so appointed and of the business committee of the central society, was held on Monday last, at the hall of the association, 448, Strand, for the purpose of deliberating upon the course to be recommended to the league at the conference.

It is in contemplation to hold a grand national anti-corn-law bazaar at Manchester as soon as the preliminary arrangements can be completed. A long list of patrons and patronesses is already published, and a committee appointed to manage the affair.

On Friday evening last a lecture on the evil tendencies of the corn law was delivered by Mr. Walter Griffith, in the Independent Chapel, Dolgelley. The attendance was numerous. The meeting was commenced and concluded with prayer by the Rev. C. Jones, minister of the place. On Monday evening last an anti-corn-law meeting was held in the Bethania Independent Chapel, Blaenau, Festiniog, when addresses were delivered by Mr. Walter Griffith, and the Rev. S. Jones, Maentwrog. The attendance was very numerous. On Tuesday evening Mr. Griffith delivered a lecture in the Independent Chapel, Tanygrisiau, Festiniog. The chapel was overflowed with people, who appeared to manifest the greatest interest in the subject.—*Carnarvon Herald.*

The tory journals were somewhat premature in boasting of their successes in the municipal elections. With the exception of Liverpool, where they have certainly been successful, in all the large towns they have lost ground. In Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stockport, the liberals have been successful. It will be found that the tories have been successful only in towns of little importance, the inhabitants of which are overawed by some great tory landlord or neighbouring farmers. Sir Robert Peel's recommendation will, for instance, be religiously acted on at Tamworth; and he must be a bold reformer who would think of fighting the Duke of Newcastle in Newark. In places of this kind the subservient people must do as they are bid. On the other hand, in nearly all the places which can afford to be independent, the municipal elections have gone in favour of the liberals.—*Morning Chronicle.*

It has been decided in the last revision, both at Birmingham and at Gloucester, that trustees of dissenting chapels have not, as was formerly supposed, the right of voting for county members. At the revision in Gloucester, the revising barristers rejected the claims, or struck off the names, of the Roman catholic priest, the unitarian minister, and the baptist minister, and also of six trustees of the Wesleyan chapel.

The stoppage of the Canterbury Union Bank is likely to prove a very bad affair indeed. Not more than five shillings in the pound will be realised. The consequences on the trade of the town and neighbourhood have proved exceedingly injurious; and it is feared that at the close of the year, when payments of yearly accounts are looked for by the tradespeople, much embarrassment will be felt, and that many will be broken up.

Extreme Distress of the Poor.—On Thursday last a meeting of the rate-payers of Stourbridge township was held at the public office, for the purpose of exempting from the payment of the current poor's rate those persons who, from their extreme poverty, are unable to pay. Notice of the meeting having been posted on the church and chapel doors, the number of applicants was very great; and the rate payers who attended to examine the various cases were fully employed from two till half-past seven o'clock. The plea more generally urged by the applicants was want of employment, from which cause numbers are already suffering privations of the most harrowing description. At no former period in the last twenty years has there been such an amount of poverty and wretchedness in this town. To give one case out of many which have come to our knowledge—a fortnight ago a warrant of distress was placed in the hands of a policeman to execute in the dwelling of a man who had not paid his poor rate. He went, but soon quitted the abode of poverty without levying the distress. The man had been out of work thirteen weeks (he is an underhand puddler), with the exception of occasionally working a turn of eight hours for any one who was sick. He has a wife and two children. The wife, on the day on which the officer visited their domicile, exhibited to the writer of this article thirty pawn tickets of various articles, which, one after another, had been pledged to support life. Among other articles, a child's frock for four-pence. The clothing and bedding of hundreds are gone already; how will they bear the peltings of the pitiless blast of the coming winter? Sir Robert Peel says, "Wait and see."—*Worcester Chronicle.*

We have this week had better markets at both our cloth halls than at any period during the last three months. This has been more particularly the case for goods adapted for the American markets, and which have been dead stock upon the manufacturers' hands for some time, but prices are exceedingly low. The news brought by the Acadia, of the acquittal of M'Leod, and the cause of difference between the two countries being removed, are the principal causes of this improvement in our cloth markets. Although business is dull in the warehouses, there is, nevertheless, considering the general state of trade, as much business doing as can be expected at this late period of the season.—*Leeds Mercury.*

We are sorry to announce that the typhus fever is at present very prevalent in Bradford. The extreme distress of the operatives is a sorry accompaniment at such a period.—*York Courant.*

Seven of the large mills in Bradford commenced running short time on Monday last. This is another of the "signs of the times."—*York Courant.*

Business is usually dull in November, and the market at Manchester this week has formed no exception to the rule. There has been a very inconsiderable demand for either goods or yarns; but we believe that prices have remained unaltered. It is not, perhaps, likely that twist will improve at this season of the year; but should the restoration of confidence with respect to the continuance of amicable relations with America produce the expected demand from that quarter, there is reason to hope that it will have a favourable effect upon goods.

The railway receipts of the week, for the principal lines, are as follows:—Blackwall, 625*l.*; Brighton (to 30th ult.), 2191*l.*; York and North Midland, 1558*l.*; Hull and Selby, 848*l.*; North Midland, 4342*l.*; Midland Counties, 2478*l.*; South Western, 4904*l.*; Birmingham and Derby, 1225*l.*; Great Western, 12,175*l.*; Greenwich, 734*l.*; Birmingham, 15,922*l.*; Northern and Eastern, 739*l.*; Manchester and Birmingham, 290*l.*; Eastern Counties, 737*l.*; Great North of England, 1476*l.*; Birmingham and Gloucester, 1677*l.*

The account in the provincial journals all agree in describing the amount of rain which has lately fallen, as far beyond the average of any season for many years past. A great deal of mischief has been done the farmer by its continuance.

IRELAND.

Mr. Justice Johnson, of the Irish Court of Common Pleas, has resigned: it is said he will be succeeded by Mr. Lefroy. Baron Foster, it is stated, is to go to the Common Pleas, as the successor of Judge Johnson; and Mr. Lefroy is to become the junior baron in the exchequer, in place of Baron Foster.

At Caher, on Thursday night, a party of noblemen and gentlemen attacked three mail-coaches, and seriously maltreated the passengers. The Marquis of Waterford is said to have headed the mob; and many gentlemen from the surrounding districts, who hold the commission of the peace, were joined with him. The coaches attacked were the Cork and Dublin mail, by Cashel, and the Waterford and Limerick mails. Concerned in the attack on one of the latter mails, we are informed, were some officers quartered in the neighbourhood. The attention of the government has been drawn to this outrage by Mr. Murphy, who was seriously assaulted by the mob, and Lord Eliot has promised to inquire into the matter. We trust he will redeem his promise. The outrage was a foul one; noblemen and gentlemen were concerned in it; and it is imperative on the government, if any regard is to be paid to the impartial administration of justice, that an example should be made of the rioters.—*Dublin Monitor.*

The Rev. Thaddeus O'Malley, of this city, the eloquent advocate of education and poor-law provision, who was made Roman catholic rector of Malta, at £500 a-year, by the late government, has sailed for his destination.—*Limerick Chronicle.*

SCOTLAND.

During Mr. O'Connor's agitation visit to Aberdeen, the provost was so much afraid of an outbreak, that he had the military in readiness, and sixteen rounds of ball cartridge distributed to each man. A large number of special constables were also sworn in.

The municipal elections took place in Scotland on Tuesday week. In Edinburgh, the usual division of whig and tory was somewhat confounded by the other division of nonintrusionist and anti-nonintrusionist. The whigs, however, won in every instance, returning all the fourteen members. At Glasgow, the election leaves parties much as they stood before, fifteen on each side, with two doubtfuls. The *Glasgow Argus*, however, reckons that the liberals have gained one; and says that the nonintrusionists are reduced to a minority in the council.

An intelligent correspondent at Perth, writes as follows on the subject of nonintrusion:—"I learn from your paper that England is in a strange turmoil just now about her church rates, the fate of which seems to be settled beyond all dispute. Scotland is in no less agitated a state about her non-intrusion, which I think is destined to inflict the heaviest blow establishments have ever received in our quarter of the island. Should the government refuse to interfere, and the church get herself still duped into the contention with the civil courts, I think that in the end all her best ministers will find themselves so hampered, and their usefulness so impaired, that no course will remain for them but dissent. Even should the legislature interfere, it can only grant partial relief—it can only attempt to effect a compromise between the rights of patrons and the demands of the church; this may stave off the question for a time, but a taste of liberty will only create a desire for more, and the demand will become so urgent, and so extensive, that it will soon be found that complete liberty and state connexion are two things quite incompatible. Another presbytery of the church of Scotland has lately placed itself in the same predicament as the deposed ministers of Strathbogie, and the hot-heads who now sway in the church will mete out for them the same measure. The presbytery to which Mr. Robertson of Ellon belongs (who is a leader of the moderate party), have been instructed to deal with him for holding communion with the deposed ministers; they will probably find that he has done nothing wrong; this will be appealed to the Synod, and from it to the General Assembly, who will undoubtedly reverse the sentence of the Presbytery, and probably depose Mr. Robertson, so that the present confused state of parties becomes more confounded. There is a very general feeling throughout Scotland against the intrusion of unacceptable ministers upon the people, and it would have been much stronger had not the dominant party in the church gone about their work in such an intolerant, illegal manner. They have been like the chartists—they have injured a good cause, by furious and headstrong zeal. All this, however, tends to show that the human mind is striving to burst its fetters, and to escape from all unnecessary incumbrances, both in church and state."

SELECTIONS FROM THE PRESS.

(Times.)

THE PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION.

We have been taken to task by some of our conservative contemporaries for speaking severely of the Protestant Association. We would beg the authors of such animadversions to look over our yesterday's report of the proceedings of that body, and ask themselves what it can possibly be expected to effect but simple unmixed evil.

If there is any one thing of more vital consequence than another to the well-being of the Irish people, it is the persuading them that the English are not their enemies; that we do not wish to insult their feelings or rule them by a party. This the conservative party and its leaders know, and they have acted on it in their much-approved appointments of Lord De Grey and Lord Eliot. And we scarcely suppose that the politicians who are represented by the papers to which we allude would venture to disown a policy so obviously just and wise. The days are gone when the state of warfare produced by Orange domination can be considered in any more favourable

view than an enormous evil, justifiable only on proof of temporary and overwhelming necessity.

In this state of things, what is the position chosen by this association? We will not ask what good has it effected for English or Irish, but what does it profess to be about? It has chosen as its distinctive mark, its peculiar object, its one animating principle, the occupation, not of calmly refuting Roman catholic errors—not of disabusing the minds of the Irish peasantry from political prejudices—not of teaching us in detail how to combat their politics, or to ameliorate their condition without exciting their jealousy (offices, we confess, which we should not be hasty to intrust to the discretion of such a body)—but simply of doing this one thing—of exciting the English public, or, in default of that, the not very wise part of it who frequent the Exeter-hall exhibitions, against that religion which, right or wrong, furnishes a watchword to the Irish people, and to touch which is received as the most provoking act of hostility.

To propose remedies, still less to assist in carrying them into effect—to convert, nay, even to debate, it does not profess—its glory is in a crowded meeting of good protestants—i. e., in collecting a number of sitters, not under a very strong temptation, to be hurried away by Romish sophistry, and to the pouring out their dogmata of condemnation on their unhappy believers, who swallow them all as savages are said to devour cathartics—not because they want them for themselves, but because they are admirable things for those whose natural functions are disordered. Any man who will look down a page of the reports of the Protestant Association, and stop his eye for a moment when he observes the words, "cheers," "hear, hear," will find them always called forth by some broad denunciation or coarse anecdote against the unrepresented papist.

We are no partisans of what is called concession; we are not silly enough, or inexperienced enough, to fancy that feelings of long-standing, widely spread and deeply seated, will be bribed into quiet by sops. For Ireland firmness is as necessary as beneficence. But the "*ferociter in modo nihil in re*" of the Protestant Association, and such like exhibitions, would seem expressly devised for impeding, to the extent of its power, both firm and gentle treatment.

But "truth must be told—dangerous sedition, violence, superstition, must be exposed." Possibly. And, indeed, we can fancy such an exposure of Irish Romanism, severe, cautious, earnest, and dignified, so removed from the violence and coarseness which it condemns, so purged from overstatement and party acrimony, so plainly grounded on conviction, and that conviction on sad and serious examination, that, in spite of immediate irritation, men would stand rebuked before it; that even the evil doers in their anger would be compelled to feel who was right and who wrong.

That our readers may judge how far the present meetings are carried on in this spirit, we will lay before them a little of what passed.

The mover of the first resolution told the meeting that it was "congregated in support of the British constitution, which was characterised by attachment to the Bible, and the Bible alone" (a stringent limitation to its charities), "and a hatred of the delusions of popery" [cheers]. He told them that "it was for religious freedom they were battling, and therefore" (most marvellous *ergo*)—"therefore until popery was practically fettered, and protestantism practically in the ascendancy, their work would not be completed" [cheers]. He was not satisfied without being called *ultra*-protestant, because "of late the term protestant had been much misunderstood." He reiterated "no peace with Rome," and bade all protestants never cease protesting "until the united voice of the millions of Britain shall condemn, repudiate, reject, and anathematise the papacy" [cheers].

Another gentleman, who writes Rev. before his name, we trust not from any connexion with our own church, spoke in a tone which deserves to be presented in a more continuous form:—

"He was a protestant from his birth; his mother dipped him in the Boyne water when an infant; he was reared on the plains where his ancestors fought for protestant freedom: the only tune he could ever learn was 'the protestant Boys;' and almost the only toast he ever drank was 'The glorious and immortal memory' [cheers and laughter]. As he grew up, his ambition led him to become a master of an Orange lodge, though perhaps they would laugh at him for his folly. The persecutions and batterings he endured from the papists in Connaught for ten years had not made him a whit less a protestant, and he never should cease to be a protestant while the church of Rome continued to profess the intolerant and blood-thirsty principles which distinguished her of old, and which she only wanted an opportunity again to carry into effect. He should never cease to be a protestant while the church of Rome continued to threaten protestants with death [cries of 'No, no!' and 'Proof']. *Peter Dens*, and other works of authority with the church of Rome, furnished full proof of his assertions. In Maynooth, too, the students were trained to dishonour the truth of God, to deceive the unwary into error, to hate the word of God, and the members and ministers of the church of England as thieves and slaves, and to abuse, defame, insult, and impede the rule of a protestant throne ['hear, hear,' and mingled cries of 'False!']."

He then proceeded to tell the usual stories of scapulas, priests with horsewhips, and so on, and finished by moving the second resolution, "expressive of a conviction in the minds of the audience that the spirit of the popish conspirators of 1605, and in the time of King James, still forms a part of the educational system of Maynooth, and still operates to the peril of our great national institutions, and therefore protestants should exert themselves to defend those institutions against the encroachments of popery."

We must in candour confess that the speech of this reverend and tuneful gentleman, whom his mother, according to the measure of her religion, baptised, as he seems to think it, into protestantism, and who since that semi-jovial event has consecrated his energies, his ribs, his singing, and his bottle, whole and entire to the denunciation of popery, was the most remarkable production of the meeting. Indeed, in or out of the Exeter hall, the only thing which our imagination pictures to us as at all comparable to it is an Irish howl. We wish, however, he had been alone, as he was pre-eminent in his wild incoherencies.

The next gentleman differed from the mover, as indeed he could hardly help it, in his estimation of at least one important part of the anti-papistical English constitution—viz., the emancipation act of 1829, which "ought never to have disgraced the statute book of his country."

"For his part, as Luther kindled a fire and burnt the pope's bull which denounced him, so would he, rather than agree to that bill, have lighted a fire in Smithfield, and (we thought he was going to the stake, but the sacrifice for which he had prepared his mind was less appalling)—*and consumed it.*"

The conclusion is startling. After this speech

"The Chairman announced the proceedings to have terminated, and *after singing a doxology*, the assembly departed."

We would only ask, in point of argument, in point of conciliation, in religion, in politics—we will say in decency—what can be said for, or effected by, this miserably grotesque affair?

(Examiner.)

THE FAMILY MAN.

We have heard only one excuse for Louis Philippe's plot to overthrow the government of Spain, and that is, the uncontrollable force of his family affections. It is alleged that he is so devoted to every branch of his family, that he looses sight of all the dictates of prudence, and the distinctions of right and wrong, when any opportunity of serving them occurs.

In the slang of thieves the burglar is called "a family man," which would seem to signify some connexion like that to be traced in the recent conduct of Louis Philippe, between the domestic ties and breaking into one's neighbour's house. Yet so modest are the smaller order of rogues, that we have never heard the apology of the affections offered in palliation of their trespasses against the rights of property. An attempt at murder and robbery has never yet, we believe, been excused on the ground that the culprit did it to aggrandise his family.

The first of "the family men" for whom this plea has been set up is his most Christian, or, let us suggest the emendation, his most Christina Majesty the King of the French.

And yet Louis Philippe was not always so blindly governed by his family affections. There was a time when he could look to other things than the ties of blood. The feelings of kin did not sweep him into partisanship with Charles X; and cool was his judgment, clear his views, of the crimes of a relative, when they led to a throne for himself. "The family man" was not of his family from the restoration to the revolution of the Three Days. For the whole of that period his patriotism was far stronger than his ties of consanguinity, and his opinions were not in the slightest degree biassed by the feelings of the kinsman. His government of the affections was complete while he had not the government of *la belle France*. In the days of Louis XVIII and Charles X, who would have imagined that the Duke of Orleans was the man to spend a maravedi in aid of any enterprise of one of his kindred against constitutional government? Money was then supposed to be what he loved best, and next to it the enemies of the ruling Bourbon dynasty, for he was not in those times "a family man," and his affections were under very, very reasonable control. It may be, however, that effects may be produced on the affections, like those on trees, by pruning, and that lopping off the elder branch of the Bourbons has given so rankly luxurious a development to the family attachments of Louis Philippe.

Certain it is, that if the Christina plot had had place in days of Charles X, the Duke of Orleans would have taken a clear and stern view of its criminality. And had Charles X lived, and made such an attempt on France as Christina has made on Spain, we much question whether the bowels of Louis Philippe would have precisely yearned towards him.

But then, besides the love which Louis Philippe bears to every branch of the Bourbon stock, excepting always that main part of it which stood between him and a throne, there was also his fatherly desire to effect an advantageous match for his son, and for this object we have seen that this great prince has gone to lengths in fortune-hunting, the like of which in humble life would place the adventurer's neck in a halter: for, translated into vulgar action, or reduced from a great to a small scale, the plot of his most Christina Majesty was for an abduction through the means of murderous violence. Many a man has suffered the penalty of the law for a similar atrocity. The only difference is, that Louis Philippe would have stolen a Queen and a throne for his son, where meaner criminals have stolen an heiress and an estate. But there is one feature in which this outrage stands without a parallel. We never heard of such an accomplice in the crime as a mother authorising armed men to break into her daughter's house, to shoot her defenders at the risk of shooting her too, in order to seize her person. Imagine these circumstances in those states of life in which the cupidities are supposed to have most strength, judge what would be thought of the wickedness of it, and then estimate the morality of the royal personages that plotted the attempt on Spain, involving the night attack on the palace. Of all the criminal acts and enterprises of our time, we look upon this as the blackest and wickedest; the basest in its motives, the most ruthless in the means through which alone the object could be accomplished.

"There are men," says Bacon, "who are such self-lovers that they will set their neighbour's house on fire to roast their own eggs in the embers." One of this class is certainly the much lauded Louis Philippe, who would throw a nation into the horrors of civil war, to steal a crowned match for his son. The return due to him for the money he has spent for this object, is the guilt of all the blood that has been spilt, and the infamy of the vilest treachery.

We differed strongly from Lord Palmerston on the Eastern policy; we thought him wrong for risking a war with France for so doubtful a policy as the nominal restoration of the feeble authority of the Porte in Syria; but we do not the less confidently concur in the prevailing opinion, that if Lord Palmerston had remained in office, Louis Philippe would not have dared to instigate, connive at, or permit the recent attempt against Spain.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, November 10, 1841.

Yesterday, at twelve minutes before eleven, the Queen was happily delivered of a Prince. His Royal Highness Prince Albert, her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, several Lords of her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and the Ladies of her Majesty's Bedchamber, being present. The news was immediately made known to the town by the firing of the Park and Tower guns; and the Privy Council being assembled, as soon as possible thereupon, at the Council Chamber, Whitehall, it was ordered, that a form of thanksgiving for the Queen's safe delivery of a Prince be prepared by his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, to be used in all churches and chapels.

The Duke of Cornwall, at his birth, is considered of full age in his capacity as possessor of that Duchy, and immediately succeeds to the enjoyment, for his separate use, of all its revenues, &c.

Her Majesty and the infant prince are both going on most favorably.

The Queen Dowager, it is said, is, upon the whole, rather better.

Yesterday being the day appointed for the swearing in of the Chief Magistrate of the City of London at Westminster hall, every street, square, court, and alley, from London bridge to that of Westminster, were crowded by anxious persons, of both sexes, to witness the procession by water and land. His Lordship, in his state coach, drawn by six horses, was preceded by the bands of the 11th Hussars, Prince Albert's Own, 2nd Life Guards, and that belonging to the 72nd Foot. The various City Companies took water in their state barges at various stairs, accompanied by bands composed of the Grenadier, Coldstream, and Scots Fusilier Guards, who played the most modern music in their usual effective style. The usual civic banquet was given at the Guildhall.

CONSISTORY COURT, THIS DAY.

Before Dr. Lushington.

Braintree Church Rate Case.—The Queen's advocate moved the court to issue a monition to the parishioners, calling upon them to show cause why this rate, made by a minority, should not be confirmed. The court felt that difficulties might arise from the mode of procedure; but confirmed the rate *instanter*. We shall in our next number give a full report of the proceedings.

CORN MARKET. Mark Lane, This Day.

The supply of grain is very small, and prices nominally the same as on Monday.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"H—Y F—R."—The plan he suggests is illegal—has been tried once by the labouring classes and failed most signally—and would meet with no support among the middle classes.

Our friend at Perth has our warmest thanks. The gentleman he refers to has no other connexion with this paper than himself—*i. e.*, is a warm friend.

"E."—The letter having been intended for another paper, and being a sequel to some preceding one, would be out of place in our columns.

"A Dissenter" declined with thanks.

"U. J. S." also declined with thanks. We do not approve of legislation for the Sabbath.

"T. Hockley."—We do not court the Muse.

The report of the Lambeth Operative Religious Tract Society deferred till next week.

We respectfully request our country friends, in all possible cases, to give their orders to the news agents in their respective localities; where this is impracticable, the better way is to send the amount of subscription (26*s.* per annum) by post-office order, direct to the office, which wil secure the regular transmission of the paper to their address.

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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1841.

FREE-TRADE PROSPECTS, AS SEEN THROUGH THE PRESENT PARLIAMENT.

If the tone of our correspondence received during the past week may be regarded as affording a clue to the real sentiments of the middle classes, there exists an amount of hitherto suppressed opinion in favour of complete suffrage, beyond our most sanguine calculations. The course taken by ourselves on this question has elicited commendations and good wishes from the most unexpected quarters, and we feel confirmed in the opinion to which we ventured to give utterance in our last number, that the middle classes of society want not courage, but the word of command.

We deem it due to ourselves, therefore, to defend the position we have taken up, against the possibility of mistake. We are quite aware that many sincere patriots look with regret upon our recent career, as calculated to injure rather than advance the cause of commercial freedom. Their views may be thus expressed. The nation groans under an unparalleled but still increasing weight of distress — for this corn-law repeal presents itself as the best remedy. Organic reform must be the result of many years hard labour — it is generally discountenanced by the middle classes, it has not fifty supporters in the House of Commons. With the corn-law question matters stand much more favourably. The middle classes are fully alive to its importance, and a very large minority in parliament are pledged to support it. Humanity dictates that the remedy should be applied at the earliest possible season — and the commercial question being in a much more ripened state than the political, it behoves us to secure that in the first instance, after which we may proceed with all appropriate vigour to work out a practical extension of the suffrage.

Now we deny not the plausibility of this reasoning, nor have we presumed to question the motives of those who profess to act upon it. If it has not convinced us, we are prepared dispassionately to show the reasons which have influenced our judgment—and whenever they shall be fairly met, we shall not hesitate to abandon our ground. Our course can only be objected to as interfering with the speedy settlement of the free-trade question. In reply to this objection we submit to the candour of our readers a query or two:—

1. What are the present prospects of free-trade, stript of all boasting and exaggeration, and how soon, by means of it, may the labouring class hope to escape the terrible privations they now endure? The question being one of time, we ask of Mr. Cobden, Mr. Villiers, Colonel Thompson, or any other staunch advocate of unrestricted trade, within what range of time they reasonably expect to embody their principles in a legislative enactment. They have a respectable minority in the House of Commons. May we inquire what number of these would vote for entire repeal? They have arrayed against them a pledged majority of ninety-six. We would fain know what time may be expected to elapse before that majority is reduced to *nil*. From the present government they can expect no measure but one affording ample protection to the agricultural interest. We ask, how many years, taking into account declining markets, increase of competition from abroad, and increase of population at home, a partial relaxation of the present restrictive system must be in operation, before it would tell perceptibly upon the comforts of the poor—find them employment and cheapen their bread? We submit the query, whether anything short of entire repeal can save the country—whether the time is not gone by, never to return, for placing any reliance upon half-measures on this subject — whether manufacturing prosperity can be restored by any modification of the sliding scale—whether the bit-by-bit system, whilst it would certainly stave off effectual reform, would not gradually, but most certainly, let us down to that ruin which we are all striving to avoid? Two things we are most anxious to be satisfied of before we dream of shifting our ground—do these gentlemen mean to accept of any modification of the present corn-law system? if not, how do they propose, with their present minority, more than half of whom are for an eight shilling fixed duty, to force upon a pledged and most determined majority, entire and unconditional repeal? Do they see their way clear out of the wood? They can only hope, as it seems to us, that the progress of things from bad to worse will be so decided and so rapid as to bring us speedily into a condition which no people on earth can tolerate; and that suffering will presently drive our population to take a position so formidable as to wring from reluctant landholders all that the free-trader demands. We have now a second question to submit.

2. Will the power necessary to force corn-law repeal upon the present legislature be a manageable one? Is it certain that it will work the machine, instead of exploding and destroying it? The power is gathering, we confess. Every additional day's suffering acts like a fierce fire upon the popular mind, and converts what was once settled and placid as water itself, into energy as expansive, and well-nigh as dangerous, as steam. *Are we quite sure that we can turn it to our own account?* May it not be, that when it becomes formidable enough for our purposes, it may be formidable enough for its own? The millions are degraded, and ask for political rights which we refuse. We proffer bread, and they answer in thunder, "give us our rights." We plead humanity as our motive for preferring to work out for them a better social position—and still they cry, "give us our rights." We have promised much in days gone by, and we have performed nothing. We availed ourselves of their assistance, and we returned them the new poor law. What influence shall we have over them when intense suffering drives them into action, combination, retaliation? Are we prepared to ride the blazing meteor, to curb and manage it? This is no unimportant question. Evidently the day is approaching, hastened on by aristocratic selfishness unparalleled even in the history of that selfish class, when every institution of the land will have to sustain a pressure which it is more than doubtful whether it can resist. The storm is brewing—*who is to guide it?* Adopt the suffrage question now, and you have a conductor which may carry the electric flash whithersoever, and for what purpose soever, you will. Still refuse their rights to the poor, and it is very questionable whether popular indignation will take just the path which might be most convenient to ourselves.

3. In the event of a refusal on the part of Sir Robert Peel to modify the corn laws to any serious extent, and of an attempt on the part of Mr. Goulburn to increase taxation, what course do the anti-corn-law leaders intend to pursue? Do they still intend to agitate the question? or will they, convinced that agitation for that object is useless, go over to the masses, and seek organic change? In the first case they have before them a nearly hopeless task—and whilst the grass grows the steed will starve. In the last, we believe they will be making a most important move, which it would have been quite as well if they had done before. As we have no hope in Sir Robert, nor in his cabinet, nor in his class of supporters, nor in his majority, nor in his decision nor in his indecision of character, we prefer to do that *now* which justice dictates, and which, before the lapse of twelve months, will be done by the very parties who at this moment hesitate. To a movement for the suffrage we feel convinced the nation will be driven before it can secure the advantages of free trade — and, therefore, in our opinion, sound policy as well as sound principle demands that no time should be lost.

COMPLETE SUFFRAGE—MORAL EFFECTS TO BE ANTICIPATED THEREFROM.

As a general rule we know of none more certain than this—that a degraded position sooner or later ensures a degraded character. And the converse of this rule is no less true—that if you would succeed in elevating the character, you must first restore a man to self-respect by giving him unhesitatingly the rights of manhood. The will has never yet been subdued to virtue by fear. If we would conquer men we must trust them. No vigilance, no strength, no purely intellectual might, can govern a people with the same success as generosity. Treat men as slaves, and they will soon betake themselves to the vices of slavery—would you fit them for freedom, you must make them free.

A beautiful illustration of this law is before us. Who does not remember the revolting pictures of negro dispositions and negro habits self-styled statesmen were wont to draw, previously to the abolition of slavery in the West Indies? Who can forget the awful predictions which rung through the land, of insubordination, ruin, bloodshed, and devastation, as the certain result to be anticipated from unchaining at once, and without due preparation, eight hundred thousand slaves? Which of us has lost sight of Lord Stanley's wise attempt to embody in legislation the principle that it is unsafe to do justice until men have been trained to bear it? English philanthropy at last prevailed over selfishness and ignorance in high places—and immediate, unconditional freedom was proclaimed. Well! and what then? Why the world was startled to see a once debased population assume a position and act a part of sobriety, morality, and dignity unprecedented in the annals of any nation.

There are fetters which are not of iron, but which are equally galling—there are means of degrading men without the use of the lash. Political slavery may not involve all the suffering, but it essentially involves all the degradation of personal slavery. Tell any class of men that they are a worthless *caste*, not to be trusted with their own rights, incapable of understanding their own wants, but a scant degree above the level of brutes—treat them with suspicion, call them the unwashed rabble, harass them with trespass and game laws, set before them the ultimate prospect of union-house fare and union-house confinement, and if you do not make them reckless and dissolute, careless of others' rights, negligent of education, and negligent of religion, it is no fault of your's. You have done your best. You have shut up against them every honourable path to the esteem of their fellow-men—you have deprived them of all that stimulus to virtue afforded by the love of approbation. You have despised them without cause, and put in their way a powerful inducement to give you good cause to despise them. You have made them an inferior class. It is all one to them, therefore, as far as your

good-will is concerned, whether they act in such a character or not. What wonder, then, if they resolve to be what you practically tell them they are, and seek the only solace afforded them in the low pleasures of the station to which your tyranny has degraded them?

We commend to the middle-classes, at this particular juncture of our national history, the forcible, the unanswerable reasoning they urged against the advocates of negro slavery some years since—which they still urge against American planters. Let them remember that degradation is degradation still, whatever may be the outward form of it—works in the same way, produces the same effects. It matters nothing whether we affix a stigma upon our fellow-men by means of the branding iron or of political exclusion. No great improvement can be effected until the stigma is removed. We speak of the labouring classes as *unfit* to be entrusted with the franchise. We speak of their moral habits and intelligence much after the same fashion as was common ten years ago in reference to West Indian slaves. We ascribe to them intentions the most anarchical in tendency, which their every day conduct serves to repudiate. Their solemn and reiterated assurances are neither believed nor regarded. Their progress in intelligence, their patient submission to wrong, their general observance of social order, extort our praise, but do nothing towards gaining our consent to their political elevation. If any one thing could prevail upon them to attempt a violent overthrow of the present course of things, it would be our own foolish conduct. When we impute mischievous designs to them, we invite them to mischief. Let a whole community agree to label a certain family as thieves and vagabonds, and ten to one they will become so in self-defence. The whole philosophy so prevalent in the present day, of fitting men for their rights, proceeds upon a fundamentally erroneous view of human nature. It leaves out of sight the fact that man is swayed infinitely more by his affections than his calculations. Only let the poor be taken politically by the hand—placed on a level with other classes—brought forward into association with those whose social position is above them—and the spirit within them will naturally awake to new life, and become sensible to wants before unknown. Education will not need then to be forced upon the poor. They will pant for education. Man soon accommodates himself to a new sphere, when once he is allowed to move in it—seldom qualifies himself for that sphere before he is called to occupy it. Raise the tone of his self-respect by raising his position, and you awaken in his bosom an honourable ambition to act his part with becoming dignity. The extension to the people of complete suffrage, so far from exciting insubordination, would, calculating upon the ordinary laws of human nature, give a mighty impulse to popular intelligence and morality; and in the course of a short time would secure an amount of education, order, and even religion, which no other means could possibly effect.

The great *desideratum* of society is that all classes should be guided in their conduct by systematic self-government, rather than by the external restraints of law. But men never care to obey themselves until they have learned to respect themselves, and until they receive from others the respect to which they are entitled. Until then, apart from religion, with which human governments have nothing to do, the grand motive is wanting—the inner spring is sealed up—and men are what they are forced to be, rather than what they wish to be. The way to make them aspire is not to treat them as things of nought—to make them love order and revere law is not to refuse them the benefits of order and turn law into an engine for their oppression. Place them where they are entitled to be, give them what they are entitled to have, and whilst you take away the main inducement to insubordination, you supply at the same time the main motive to industrious, sober, and peaceable behaviour.

We might go further in our reasoning were this the place. We might prove that to this mode of dealing with human nature modern nations have been indebted for their growth in civilisation—that He who knows man best has thus dealt with man—gives in order that he may qualify, not qualifies in order that he may give. But we forbear, contenting ourselves with a bare indication of the high authority by which the principle is sanctioned.

Can any thinking man doubt for a moment, that if the great body of the middle class were thus to hold out the hand of friendship to the unrepresented masses, and evince a sincere desire to put them in possession of the rights so long withheld from them, they might lead them almost whithersoever they please? Revolution! spoliation! Yes, if we compel the excluded millions to wrestle with us for their own, the very heat of passion generated by the conflict may inflame them with a spirit of retaliation, in the frenzy of which nothing would be safe. But let us justly, kindly, cheerfully, restore them to political equality with ourselves, and we say there is nothing forbearing, nothing generous, nothing self-sacrificing to which they might not be led. Proudly do we bear our testimony to their susceptibility of gratitude. In all instances we have ever observed, that respect paid to them they are ready to repay tenfold. Kindness touches them more closely than it does us, for they are less familiar with it. If ignorant men can mislead them it is only because intelligent men have seen fit to spurn them. Mere demagogues would lose both their influence and their trade were men of character willing to deal justice to the poor. What they require in their leaders is a sincere recognition of their rights as freemen—and this once obtained, sound advice and rational measures would avail to win their suffrage to the full as readily as that of any other class.

On the whole, we have no manner of doubt that the moral effects to be anticipated from the adoption of complete suffrage would be even more valuable than those which are purely political. The bonds by which society is held together would be drawn more closely—party conflicts would soon cease—reason and right would have fair play—education would be coveted—morals would improve—and religion itself would appeal with much greater probability of success to the myriads who now suspect it to be an instrument of oppression.

WHAT SHALL WE AGITATE FOR?

We have heard tell, of the most celebrated mathematician that England ever saw, that having a special fondness for a favourite hen, he had a hole cut in his study door to give her free ingress to his sanctuary. In the course of nature and time, the hen had a brood of chickens, and the prince of science regarding the feathered progeny with peculiar fondness for their mother's sake, ordered another hole of smaller dimensions to be cut for their indulgence. Without intending the smallest disrespect, we cannot but consider the mixing up of the two questions of complete suffrage and fiscal reform, analogous in character to the practical supererogation of the philosopher. We are led to this subject by the letters of the Rev. W. Robinson, of Kettering. We thank him most cordially for his communications—we do homage to his sincerity, to his courage, to his benevolence, and to his zeal. But we must take leave (and sure we are that he will be the last man to except from this) to question the wisdom of the means he proposes.

Our readers will remember that the objects which Mr. Robinson lays down in his letters as affording a basis of union between the now divided classes, the middle and the labouring, are both organic and fiscal. Of these objects we beg to declare most unequivocally our entire approbation. The only question between us and our correspondent regards the blending of all these matters into one whole, and carrying on a simultaneous agitation for many things at once. We shall state our objections as succinctly as possible, and leave them to the calm consideration of our readers.

The end at which we primarily aim is union—the power we need to carry anything is the power of numbers—of numbers bound together by cordial sympathy and harmony of opinion. Wisdom would consequently appear to dictate, that the articles of our political creed should be as few and as well-selected as possible—and if we could find one, which practically would comprehend all the others, that one ought to be constituted the sole bond of union. For at the point at which detail begins, difference of opinion begins with it—and harmony in several particulars of policy may be impossible, when harmony in one comprehensive principle is feasible and comparatively easy.

To agitate for many things at once, especially where the things agitated for are widely different from each other, is, as all experience proves, impracticable. The mind gets confused by the multiplicity of objects claiming its attention, and its efforts become, in consequence, planless and pointless. Nothing is so necessary to ultimate success as unity of design. "One thing at a time" is a maxim which Englishmen habitually act upon. To set before them a long catalogue of grievances, so far from rousing, rather paralyses their energies. We might make out a case too strong for them. The suffrage and the ballot, the national debt and free trade, the bible monopoly and church rates, if brought before them in one view would have the effect which was produced upon the Spanish inn-keeper, who being roused at night to inquire who knocked, was answered in such an appalling string of names belonging to the single individual there, that he shut down his window in dismay, muttering as he did so, "We have not room for half the number."

But we have a graver objection to this mode—an objection on principle—a constitutional objection. We *cannot* at one and the same time determine what shall be the character of a House of Commons, and what it shall decide upon when it shall happen to meet. We believe most implicitly that whenever complete suffrage shall have been obtained, we shall possess a guarantee for most of the advantages which legislation can secure to us. We agitate, it may be, for representation co-extensive with taxation. How can we pledge beforehand a House of Commons chosen by the people to any specified line of policy? On principles of justice we give to all, equally with ourselves, the right of sending a representative to parliament. What right have we to say who or what that representative shall be? Any compact between one party and another as to what a reformed parliament shall effect, must in the very nature of things be null and void. Our stronghold is—that legislation ought to be an embodiment of the national will. We have no right to assume what that will shall be. If a nation pleases to make itself miserable for the sake of upholding a pampered aristocracy, it is not for us to interpose. We have no fears for the good sense of the nation, but we object very seriously to pledge ourselves for what it will do.

We lay the more stress upon this point, inasmuch as some of our contemporaries have urged that an extension of the suffrage would not strengthen the reforming interest. Nothing can be more essentially conservative than this objection. What is the reforming interest that it is to take precedence of the nation? If the people of this country are tory, who are we, to step forward and say, "you shall not have your wishes gratified?" Of Mr. Robinson we suspect no such tendencies—but there are whigs, and whig organs too, not far off, who have, under cover of liberalism, assumed airs of arrogance, and uttered maxims of pure despotism, which in a conservative paper would have called down tempests of indignation.

We believe Mr. Robinson's object would be secured far more readily by limiting the basis of union to the suffrage, and the mode of its expression—electoral districts and the ballot. Let us have these, and all the substantial reforms he mentions would follow as a matter of course. We want first of all a real representation—having that, we may trust the people to take care of their own interests.

FIRE AND FORGERY.

THE burning of the Tower of London and the forgery of exchequer bills have so completely engrossed the attention of the London public, that the alarming illness of the Queen Dowager, and the interesting situation of her Majesty Queen Victoria, seem almost to have been forgotten. The Tower of London with all its historical associations was in imminent danger of total destruction; all that part of the building appropriated as a storehouse of arms and implements of war is entirely destroyed—all our trophies of national prowess, from the big kettle drum taken by Marlborough at the battle of Blenheim, to the little guns taken at Waterloo, have only aided to swell the heap of mouldering rubbish which the scene now presents.

These munitions of war not being among the things which excite our highest veneration, we shall simply treat the matter as a loss of so much national property. We have a constable of the Tower—a governor of the Tower—a deputy-governor of the Tower—with an innumerable list of subalterns, all well paid officers whose sole business is (if they have any at all) to see that the property entrusted to them is duly protected, and yet we find, from the witnesses examined as to the origin of the fire, that it was discovered at a very early stage—that a considerable time elapsed before any water could be obtained, and that when it was obtained it was only from a small pump, and the supply was very inadequate for any useful purpose. No reservoir, within themselves, nor any of the ordinary precautions, which we are accustomed to see in large buildings where property of great value is deposited.

Although the destruction of the armoury is complete, the regalia and crown jewels are saved, and the records that were kept in the White Tower are uninjured. It is not long since that the Secretary to the Record Commission wrote to his Grace the Duke of Wellington, calling his attention to the fact that a valuable part of our records were kept immediately over a magazine of gunpowder in this White Tower, and we well recollect the conclusion of his Grace's most laconic reply—"That if the commissioners thought the gunpowder was in any danger, they had better write the Master General of the Ordnance." Of a truth this gunpowder seems to have been in very great danger, as well as the cause of much anxiety, notwithstanding his Grace's official joke; for the persons examined, who were on the spot at the time, stated that it was removed with difficulty, and thrown over the battlements into the ditch.

The exchequer bill fraud is a calamity of another sort, and one likely to be more extensively felt. Exchequer bills form a great part of the floating capital held by bankers, bill brokers, and others, to meet any exigency—they carry interest—and have been heretofore as easily convertible into cash as a Bank of England note. Since the discovery of this fraud, all the unfunded debt of the country has been valueless; there were so many bad bills known to exist, that to use a Stock Exchange phrase, "the market was closed." Thus, so loosely has the issue of these bills been managed by the Exchequer, that the credit of the country can be jeopardised by the wickedness of one man. Here again we see the baneful influence of appointments that are made as mere pretences for receiving salaries; in this case, more particularly than in the preceding one—the well paid comptroller seems to have had no control whatever, and to have deputed Mr. Dudley Montague Percival to sign his name to the last issue of bills. At the trial of Anstell for purloining exchequer bills from the bank parlour, it came out that the then Chancellor of the Exchequer used a stamp for the signature.

Very much has been said about the many ingenious checks against forgery in use at the Exchequer Office, yet this fraud has been successfully carried on since 1836, and was only now detected by an accident quite unconnected with any of those contrivances boasted of by the Exchequer clerks.

If such fearful things as the destruction of the magazine of arms on the one hand, and the paralisation of the nation's credit on the other, arouse the parliament to the necessity of a thorough sweeping away of the sinecure places, and the substitution of practical business-like habits in our public offices, we shall not regret the calamitous cause. Let every public servant be paid, and well paid, but let each individual be paid for what he does. If he be a great general, let him be paid as a great general. If he be a senator, let him be paid as a senator. If he has served his country in parliament, let him be paid honestly for his services. But let no man be paid by receiving fees from the Exchequer for services performed in parliament, or by receiving a salary as governor of the Tower for services performed in the field.

SUMMARY.

HER Majesty the Queen was safely delivered of a son, yesterday morning at ten minutes before eleven o'clock. In a chamber adjoining the royal bedroom were, as usual, several officers of state and lords of the privy council—the Lord Steward, the Lord Chamberlain, the Master of the Horse, the Duke of Wellington, the Bishop of London, Sir Robert Peel, the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Buckingham, the Earl of Aberdeen, Sir James Graham, and the Marquis of Exeter. Of all the humiliations to which royalty has been reduced by a prying, grasping, and ever-suspicious aristocracy, this is the most uncalled for, unseemly, and offensive. At a moment when life trembles in the balance, and when above all things the mind of the sufferer needs to be kept calm and cheerful, a crowd of male functionaries assemble within hearing, and remain until the *accouchement* has taken place. The reasons for this gross indelicacy—this cruelty which in any other class would be called brutal, are about as reasonable as the proceeding itself; and should the day ever arrive, when the people shall posses a real control over the movements of government, we trust they will release the monarchy from the senseless and galling forms which our nobles have not been ashamed to bind around it.

On the same day the citizens of London indulged themselves with their usual game—playing the antique (?) and doing it very badly. Coaches which preserve unchanged the lumbering form in which our ancestors for want of knowing better shaped them, were driven through the streets by men, whose species every effort had been made to conceal. Men in armour were borne in procession by sturdy steeds, looking as if they would speedily be overcome by their own arms. This is the mode adopted in the metropolis of the most refined and enlightened country in the world, of installing the chief magistrate of the city in office—all the authorities vying with each other which can make most egregious fools of themselves. John Bull in the city is a capricious animal—but the Lord Mayor's show is the most capricious and fantastical of all his freaks.

As the recess passes, anti-corn-law meetings become more frequent and more earnest both in London and in the provinces. Our columns contains condensed account of several. To the second meeting of the Operative Association at Manchester, we beg especially to direct attention. A conference of working-men is to be held at Manchester on New-year's day, delegates to which are to be invited from all quarters of the kingdom. Meanwhile the anti-corn-law league is stirring—and the deputies will convene in Manchester on the 17th inst. Distress increases with most appalling rapidity—and should severe weather set in at an early period of the winter, nobody can foresee to what extremes a starving populace may be driven.

The news from China is the only foreign intelligence of great moment. Sir H. Pottinger has arrived, and intends proceeding with the utmost vigour in the prosecution of a war originating in cupidity, and carried on with still increasing injustice.

The Queen held a court on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 2, at Buckingham Palace. The following noblemen and gentlemen had audience of her Majesty, and were respectively introduced by the Earl of Aberdeen, K.T., her Majesty's principle secretary of state for foreign affairs:—Lord Cowley, G.C.B., to kiss hands, on being appointed her Majesty's Ambassador to the King of the French; Sir Robert Gordon, G.C.B., to kiss hands, on being appointed her Majesty's Ambassador to the Emperor of Austria. Sir Stratford Canning, G.C.B., to kiss hands, on being appointed her Majesty's Ambassador to the Sublime Ottoman Porte; Lord Burghersh, to kiss hands, on being appointed her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of Prussia. Her Majesty was attended by the Earl of Morton, lord in waiting, and the Hon. Capt. Duncombe, groom in waiting.

A Cabinet Council was held on Monday afternoon, at the Foreign Office. It was attended by Sir Robert Peel, the Duke of Wellington, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Wharncliffe, the Duke of Buckingham, the Earl of Aberdeen, Sir James Graham, Lord Stanley, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Earl of Haddington, the Earl of Ripon, and Lord Fitzgerald. The Council sat two hours.

It is with extreme regret that we have received intelligence confirming the worst fears respecting the alarming and critical state of the Queen Dowager's health. From communications we have received from Sudbury Hall, we regret to state that her Majesty has unhappily been deprived of speech for the last three or four days; and that it is only by signs that her Majesty's wants and wishes can be expressed.—*Globe.*

Two Commissions of Inquiry are about to be appointed by her Majesty's government. The one at the suggestion of the First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer—the other at the suggestion of the Lord Chancellor. The object of the first of these commissions will be to inquire into the charge of collecting the public revenue, and of considering whether it will be possible to effect any reduction in that charge, either by the consolidation of offices or by the suppression of them, or by new arrangements for the receipt and transmission of the revenue. This commission will also inquire whether any additional facilities can be given for carrying on the commerce and manufactures of the country without loss or risk to the revenue. We understand that Lord Granville Somerset, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bingham Baring, Mr. Milnes Gaskell, and Mr. Pringle, have undertaken to conduct the inquiries above referred to. Lord Granville Somerset, who will preside over the commission, took a leading part in the investigations on which the reductions made by the Duke of Wellington's government in 1828, 1829, and 1830 were consequent. It is probable that the commissioners will visit some of the principal outports for the purpose of examining personally into the mode of conducting business. The object of the second commission, which the Lord Chancellor proposes to institute, will be to examine into the forms and modes of proceeding in the courts of equity, with a view of rendering the system less cumbrous, and the progress of a suit less tedious and expensive. We have reason to believe that Lord Langdale, Mr. Pemberton, and Mr. Wigram, who has been recently appointed Vice-Chancellor, have undertaken to lend their invaluable services for the conduct of this investigation, which, like the other, will be carried on without any charge to the public.—*Times.*

On dit that a solemn league and covenant, signed by thirteen peers and a great number of commoners, has been entered into for the unconditional support of the present corn laws without modification or alteration. This document, it is understood, contains a pledge that no change of any kind in the existing system will be suffered without the most strenuous and uncompromising opposition. Rumour further says that the names of several influential whigs are attached to the document, and that it is also signed by three dukes, of whom one is a cabinet minister! Can the Duke of Buckingham enlighten us on this subject?—*Morning Chronicle.*

A report prevailed last week in the robing rooms of Westminster-hall that Sir John B. Bosanquet was about to resign his puisne judgeship, and that Lord Lyndhurst would replace him by Mr. Sergeant Goulburn. The liberal members of the legal profession were much amused by a rumour, which not a little astonished and annoyed the leading tory barristers in parliament.—*Morning Paper.*

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

FIRE AT GUILDHALL.—On Thursday night an extraordinary sensation was created in the city by the report of a fire having broken out at Guildhall. The recent dreadful calamity gave an additional and fearful interest to the report, and hundreds were quickly on the spot, and King street and its neighbourhood were crowded to excess to learn the truth of the report. On inquiry, it was discovered that an explosion of gas had taken place, which had communicated to the roof, a portion of which was speedily in a blaze; the rumour spread with great rapidity throughout the city, and soon reached the west-end. An express was despatched to the different engine stations in the metropolis. A number of the brigade were speedily on the spot, and the flames we are happy to say, were in a short space of time extinguished. The roof is somewhat damaged, but the fire was got under before any serious injury occurred.

UNION WORKHOUSE ON FIRE.—An alarm was given that the Belper Union Workhouse was on fire; by great exertions it was extinguished. The *Nottingham Review* says—"We never saw such gladness (we wish we could say indifference) manifested by a crowd on a similar occasion; the people not only refused to give assistance themselves, but even attempted to intimidate those who would have done so. Their most anxious wish appeared to be to see the fire spread, and consume the whole of that noble pile of buildings."

FIRE AT MANCHESTER.—On Friday last, a fire broke out in the premises of Messrs. Cockley, Barrow, and M'Kinley, extensive cotton-spinners in Jersey street and German street, Oldham road. The engines were soon upon the spot, but their utility was greatly delayed in consequence of a want of water, which could only be procured from the canal at the north-east end of the premises; and as soon as they were properly arranged, their play was directed to the adjoining buildings, as it was quite impossible to save the premises on fire from destruction. The school room of St. Paul's, on the opposite side of German street, once caught fire, and the destruction of property would have been immense, had not the firemen at once directed their engines to that spot, and, although every pane of glass was broken, no further damage was fortunately done. The fire appears to have originated in the carding-room on the third story. The workmen had nearly all left, and the few who were on the premises were not aware of the fire until they were apprised of their peril by the police. Nearly the whole of the property in the building is entirely destroyed, as well as the machinery, and the stock in trade and machines of Mr. William Pooley, cotton-twist manufacturer, who occupies one part of the premises. The extent of the damage, it is said, will exceed £20,000.

DREADFUL OCCURRENCE.—Another fatal accident, the result of incautiously playing with fire arms, took place on Monday in Smallbrook street, Birmingham. John Swann, son of the landlord of the Cup Inn, was playing with a loaded gun, when the contents were accidentally lodged under the right eye of an old woman, fifty years of age, named Martha Snape, who was employed in the house, and caused her death a few hours afterwards.

FALL OF EARTH ON THE BRIGHTON RAILWAY. — Shortly before nine o'clock on Tuesday night, part of the embankment near the New-cross station of the above railway gave way, falling on the line to a very considerable extent. The first fall, which was on the up-line side, where the embankment is upwards of 100 feet high, was followed by another on the opposite side, completely filling up the road to the depth of nearly 15 feet for about 80 yards. The last train from Brighton passed just before the slip took place, but the last trains from London to Croydon were prevented from running, and all traffic on the line suspended. The number of men employed to remove the earth has been increased to 500. The Brighton Company are only running five down trains and four up trains in consequence, but will increase them to seven each way when the line is again clear. The Croydon Company have also discontinued nine trains per diem.

COACH ACCIDENT.—On Sunday se'nnight, as the Lincoln mail was passing through Gosberton, the horses took fright at the reflection of the moon from the glittering woodwork of Chain bridge; the leaders rushed over the railing, pulling the wheelers and coach after them into the channel. There were five passengers on the coach, and fortunately but one only received any injury, which was occasioned by the wheelers falling upon him. The others got off with a good ducking. The letter bags, together with the passengers, were forwarded to Spalding in gigs. The coach was but little injured, and the horses received no hurt.—*Cambridge Advertiser.*

LOSS OF A VESSEL AND CREW.—The ship Amanda, Davis, from Limerick, was lost off Little Metis Point, when 41 lives were lost, 29 of them emigrants, out of a crew of 18 and 40 passengers. The captain, two seamen, two apprentices, and ten passengers only were saved. The Limerick passenger ships have been very unfortunate this season. The Minstrel was lost in May last, with 137 passengers and 11 seamen.

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY IN AN OMNIBUS.—On Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Judy Myers, a lady residing in Briten lane, Old Brentford, returning home from the city, got into one of Powell's Brentford omnibuses, and on her arrival at her destination she found that her pocket had been picked of her pocket-book, containing two Bank of England notes for 20l. each, seven ditto for 10l. each, one ditto for 5l., four sovereigns, two half sovereigns, and 5s. 4d. in silver, amounting in the whole to upwards of 120l.

SLAVE TRADE.—A successful attack and capture was made by the boats of the Dolphin, under the immediate command of Mr. A. C. Murray (a mate of six years' standing) and Mr. John F. Rees, second master, of the Brazilian brigantine Firme, fully equipped for the slave trade, after a resistance of 20 minutes, with the loss of two seamen killed, Mr. Murray and one seaman severely, and two others slightly, wounded. Great resistance was met with in the act of boarding, but little after Messrs. Murray and Rees, with four or five men, had once got fairly on her deck, most of the crew running below, firing their muskets as they retreated. The Firme, a beautiful vessel (179 tons) lately built at Baltimore, was direct from Bahia, and had only just made the land, not having had communication. The regular official papers, with the Brazilian flag, were found on board, proving her to be Brazilian property. There were ten passengers not down in the official list, two or three of whom were to remain at Whydah and other places as slave agents. They were all using muskets; at all events, they were handing powder up from the cabin, and to persons firing from the stern scuttles in the cabin. Lieutenant Littlehales secured them, with the crew, hand and foot, and kept them on bread and water for eight days, landing all at Accra (except those necessary for condemnation), not being able, through the heaviness of the surf, to land them to the eastward.

A PORTUGUESE SLAVER.—The following is an extract of a letter from an officer on board her Majesty's ship Acorn:—"*St. Helena, 4th September*, 1841. On our passage here from Rio Janeiro, when about half way across, a sail was reported one morning at daylight, and chase was immediately given, the stranger also making sail, and putting before the wind, which looked very suspicious. At about eight o'clock we had neared him considerably, fired a blank gun, and hoisted our colours—no answer! At ten o'clock we were closing her fast, and, observing that it was a slaver, with slaves on board, we fired several shots over her, which at last made her hoist Portuguese colours and round to. On getting alongside of her, and when in the act of hoisting out and lowering our boats, the villain of a captain put his helm up, and ran right on board of us. Luckily, we were too quick for him in making sail again, so we sustained no damage. I was the first on board, and such a sight I never saw before, and hope never to see again. First, one of their crew lying shot through the shoulder and nobody caring for him in the least; secondly, the captain two-third's drunk, and very abusive and insolent; and last, though not least, about 530 poor creatures crowded in a-tween-decks, where they could but just sit upright. The smell and sight of their poor emaciated bodies was dreadful, and although only fourteen days out, twenty-two had died of small-pox, and twenty others had it; indeed, so reduced were they, that it was difficult to decide at a glance the sex of the poor women and girls, not a vestige of breast or feature remaining by which to distinguish them. Two or three of them were lifted with one hand with the greatest ease. Such a horrible sight I never saw. We sent the slaver (the Anna by name) the same evening to Rio for condemnation."—*Morning Herald.*

PROMISSORY NOTES.—An account of the average aggregate amount of promissory notes payable to bearer on demand which have been in circulation in the United Kingdom, distinguishing those circulated by the Bank of England, by private banks, and by joint-stock banks, in England and Wales, by the banks in Scotland, by the Bank of Ireland, and by all other banks in Ireland; and of the average amount of bullion in the Bank of England, during the four weeks preceding the 16th day of October, 1841, pursuant to the act 4 and 5 Victoria, cap. 50.

ENGLAND:	
Bank of England	£17,340,000
Private banks	6,253,964
Joint-stock banks	3,519,384
SCOTLAND:	
Private and joint-stock banks	3,203,703
IRELAND:	
Bank of Ireland	3,060,750
Private and joint-stock banks	2,185,398
Total	35,563,199
Bullion in the Bank of England	£4,290,000

NEW VEGETABLE.—At the meeting of the Horticultural Society on Thursday, Dr. Lindley drew attention to a new vegetable lately introduced into this country, and grown successfully at Chiswick, which is likely soon to become extensively cultivated for our markets. It is known by botanists as the Oxalis Deppii, and the flavour both of the stalks and the tubers is characteristic and quite distinct from anything previously known at our tables. It has been grown extensively in Belgium, from whence it has been introduced here.

DEFINITION OF A TRUE CONSERVATIVE.—A self-important would-be town councillor—a few years ago an ultra radical, now, for the nonce, a conservative (save the mark!)—being refused the support of a poor voter the other day, said, "Very well, Sir, I shall go to Mr. —— (naming his employer), and he will compel you to vote for me, for I know him to be a *true conservative!*" Thank you, Mr. embryo town councillor, for this exact definition of a "true conservative!"—*Cambridge Independent Press.*

"I'LL DO IT AGAIN."—The horse of a good man living in one of the states of North America happened to stray into the road; a neighbour of the man who owned the horse put him into the pound. Meeting the owner soon after he told him what he had done, "and if I catch him in the road again," said he, "I'll do it again." "Neighbour," replied the other, "not long since I looked out of my window in the night, and saw your cattle in my meadow, and I drove them out, and shut them in your yard; and I'll do it again." Struck with the reply, the man liberated the horse from the pound, and paid the charges himself. "A soft answer turneth away wrath."

FRIENDSHIP.—Friendship supplies the place of everything to those who know how to make a right use of it; it makes your prosperity more happy, and your adversity more easy.

ERROR.—A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser to-day than he was yesterday.

EVIL AND GOOD.—To do evil for evil is human corruption; to do good for good, is civil retribution; but to do good for evil, is christian perfection.

The *Charivari* says:—"When ministers received intelligence of the fire in the Tower of London and the destruction of 200,000 muskets, M. Guizot immediately wrote to the British Government to say that he would burn 400,000 in order to re-establish the balance of power in Europe."

"I love thee still," as the quiet husband said to his chattering wife.

"I believe in the law and the *profits*," as the lawyer said when he pocketed his fee.

LITERATURE.

Ward's Library of Standard Divinity. Nos. XXX to XXXV.

THIS undertaking, which we have before noticed, proceeds with unabated vigour. We have before us, "Manton on the Lord's Prayer"—"Bellamy's True Religion Delineated"—"Fergusson on St. Paul's Epistles"—"Essays on the Christian Ministry"—"Baxter's Reformed Pastor" and "Knapp's Christian Theology"—works, the value of which the theological world has unequivocally recognised—various in regard to subject, but all excellent. If the rising ministry of our land be not, in the best senses of the word, a learned one—learned in the peculiar lore of their sacred profession, it will not be from want of easy access to the richest materials of biblical knowledge. They may lay under contribution for their own advantage, the studies and the writings of the most distinguished theologians both of Europe and America. What with translations and reprints, there is scarcely a production of eminence in any one department of Christian literature which is not available to our ministers and students.

The times increasingly demand a highly cultivated ministry. Those who assume the functions of the instructor must rise above the level of their flocks in mental attainments. A spirit of inquiry has been generated which no earthly power can lay. Authority, dressed in clerical robes, and enunciating its decrees in clerical tones, ceases to command submission, and scarcely secures outward respect. Mind has burst the fetters of many centuries and can only be ruled by mind. Mere superficial acquaintance with a limited range of topics might do in former days—henceforth nothing but thorough, sound, well-digested learning will maintain undisputed sway over the numerous congregations of dissenters.

Let none mistake us. The thing usually dignified with the name "learning"—the knowledge whose worth is like that of diamonds, the artificial worth of rarity—difficult to obtain, useless when had—familiarity with Latin quantities and Greek particles—acquaintance with the niceties of dialect, the history of digammas, the various readings of ancient plays, and the musty comments of scholiasts—is not what we mean when we assert the importance of learning to the ministry of this and coming times. A man may burrow away his lifetime amid the rubbish of antiquity, and scarcely rise higher in the scale of intelligence than the "learned pig." There are triflers enough in the world, well paid ones too, whose taste leads them to grub amongst the relics of past ages, to discover the old bones, and chips of crockery, and rusty nails, of ancient Greece and Rome. We blame not either their taste or their habits—but how their labours in this vocation tend to qualify them for guiding their fellow-mortals into the sublime arcana of Christian truth, we never yet could discern. Men whose days are occupied from morning youth to the meridian of manhood in a laborious examination of words and accents and stops, the mere mechanism by which mind communicates with mind, are usually, in all high senses, pragmatical dunces—and are just as much entitled to the designation "learned" as he would be to that of "musical," who had passed his days in measuring organ pipes, and examining the bellows, but who had never elicited from the instrument a single breath of sweet sound.

See now the value of this thing, misnomered learning, in the clergy of the English church. Theologically, the generality of them are light as straws and feathers—tossed about, most ridiculously, by every gust of error. The extravagancies of modern days—Irvingism, Millenarianism, and every other absurd Ism which has, meteor-like, blazed away its brief existence in our own times—whence came the hosts that they drew after them? whence but from the establishment? There would seem to be no doctrine too monstrous to obtain the suffrage of a considerable number of the clergy. They are regular spiritual "Will-o'the-Wisps"—lo! here—lo! there—whirled about and caught up by every eddy. We speak not in personal disparagement of the men. The most conscientious and devout are often the most readily blown away into wild enthusiasm. Greek particles and the plays of Sophocles, are but poor ballast for a man upon the stormy sea of controversial divinity. The "learning" of the clergy is chiefly of the wrong sort—pagan, not Christian—conversant with words, not things—more familiar with puerile absurdities than with manly truth. Into the great temple of theology they are never conducted. At the universities, they get no further than the porch—and if, in after times, another spirit leads them into the sacred edifice, they are fairly bewildered with the novelties which they see around them—they grow dizzy—and in most cases are led off by some intruding folly.

But there is a learning which ministers may and must acquire, if they would be well qualified for the office they sustain. Let them sit at the feet of the sages of the Christian world—the philosophers of the church—not as devotees, but as thoughtful inquirers! Let them listen to the grave, albeit quaint, discourse of the worthies who lived only to think—and thought only to illustrate sacred truth. Putting aside the cumbersome technicalities in which the thoughts of these high-souled men are dressed, let them converse with those glorious minds—calm, deep-meditating, baptised with dews from the spiritual world, and they will learn more in a few hours of that which will qualify them for the pulpit, than they would have done, though all ancient literature had been at their finger's ends.

Mr. Ward is calling up, one by one, the great men of yore, to discourse in their own way and language on the various themes suggested by holy writ. We trust these grave and learned lecturers will secure month by month, a numerous auditory.

The Union of Church and State Antiscriptural and Indefensible. By the Rev. W. THORN, Winchester. London: Jackson and Walford.

ANYTHING in the shape of discussion upon the question so ably treated by Mr. Thorn, in this volume, would be superfluous in this department of the *Nonconformist*. We wish to place under the notice of our readers a work of no mean pretensions on the subject with which we more especially identify ourselves; and thus, if possible, bring to bear upon their minds, the heavier artillery as well as the lighter missiles employed in warfare against a political church. We are not particularly careful to justify our own zeal from the aspersions which indifference oftener than christian meekness, cast, upon it. But Mr. Thorn shall be allowed at the outset to tender his apology to the somewhat captious court, called "the religious world"—and if he do not obtain a verdict in his favour, we can only say that, in our judgment, he ought.

"Under this impression we contend, that every honest dissenter, and every consistent protestant, is warranted by his avowed principles of obedience to Christ, and his faith in the perfection of scripture, to employ all lawful means for dissolving this unholy alliance of church and state. Yea, more; if the bible, and the bible alone, be our religious guide; if Christ alone be our spiritual head—doctrines which lie at the basis of protestantism—and if the union under review be evidently opposed to divine revelation; every nonconformist, and every practical churchman in the kingdom, cannot fail to exert himself for effecting this great and beneficent reformation, without sinning against his creed, his conscience, and his God. The removal of what is termed the grievances of dissenters will be hailed with gratitude by that body of British subjects; but while the alliance of church and state is preserved, there can be no recurrence to primitive examples, nor ought there to be satisfaction in the minds of good men.

"There is, indeed, a class of people who deprecate all religious controversy—at least, everything said or written against their own creed and customs. They frequently boast of these antipathies, as of most christian virtues, forgetting that they may be preferring peace to verity, and error to the truth of revelation. We admit that such debates may be conducted with unhallowed tempers—that persons may fiercely strive about trifles or insolvable mysteries—and that they may seek the mastery of their antagonist instead of the mind of Christ; but these evils are not essential to polemical investigations, and we believe are foreign to the present. The principle involved in the objection is one of a most pernicious character, and fairly acted upon, would have left every ancient heresy and superstition unmolested. The apostles preached the gospel with much contention, and their genuine followers, of every age, have contended for the faith once delivered to the saints. In a word, there never was a wise man yet, who has fully acted in the spirit of this objection, and there never will be a wise man, that shall carry such a notion into general practice."—pp. xvi, xvii.

The work is divided into six books. The first is chiefly explanatory, consisting of a lucid exposition of the terms employed in the controversy, and a statement of the nature of the alliance subsisting between the church and the state, together with certain important deductions. The second book treats of the separation of church and state—shows what church reformers do *not* desire—points out the changes which separation necessarily involves, and discusses the question of the future application of ecclesiastical revenues. Book the third is headed, "Parties most interested in this controversy." The natural advocates of this union—government, the aristocracy, and the rich clergy—and its natural adversaries the pious-working clergy (?) episcopalians generally, and protestant dissenters pass in review before us, and have their say. The fourth book deals with the arguments urged in defence of the union, and the fifth sets forth those which tell against it, whilst the sixth and last takes up the duties and prospects of church reformers. The reader has now before him a general outline of the book. As a specimen of Mr. Thorn's controversial powers, we select quite at random his answer to the assertion that "the church amply repays the state for all its revenues and distinctions."

"The meaning is, that the *civil* service of the clergy is equal to all the salaries paid to clergymen. This assumes that the leading design of the gospel is to make men peaceable and loyal subjects. That the faithful preaching of divine truth, and the holy example of religious teachers, will produce great advantages to society, cannot be doubted; but are the clergy, according to the canons and institutions of the hierarchy, supported for this professed object? And would not Christianity be inconceivably degraded by making this its leading and prominent purpose? It is, however, palpable that the bishops, dignitaries, and most of the well or overpaid clergy, do but little even in this way: as their moral lessons are seldom heard, and their holy examples but rarely seen.

"With respect to the good men, who do preach faithfully and live righteously, within the pale of the establishment; it does not appear how they would become less useful, in this respect, were they paid by the donations of their flocks, instead of stipends from the civil government. It can scarcely be imagined that, in the former case, they would be less zealous and exemplary than they are in the latter. Or, is it conceived, that their eloquence and efforts would be less employed in supporting state measures, were they not in effect government officers? This would hardly be the case; for even now, they oppose the ministry and the crown, when the privileges of their order are in the least degree invaded. That, as a body, they are loyal only as it ministers to their own cupidity, many historical facts render apparent. The conduct of thousands of them has set morality at defiance, and contaminated the minds and morals of their parishioners. Does not the shepherd's running astray, eminently encourage the sheep to wander from the path of virtue? Is not one unholy clergyman the occasion of more impiety than a dozen laymen? And will he not, in the course of a year, effect more mischief in a community, than half a score pious preachers can fully counteract?

"Besides, do not other professions, whose officers are not in the pay of the crown, promote peace, justice, and loyalty, in the nation? Does not every good man, whatever be his creed, add his quota to the joint stock of our well being? Are not dissenting ministers benefiting the country equally with parish priests? Are not the social virtues as zealously inculcated in the meeting house as in the church? Are not nonconforming pastors, really and necessarily, as a body, men of virtuous and christian habits? And must not the members of a seceding chapel conduct themselves soberly, honestly, and religiously, to preserve their seat at the table of the Lord? He who denies the truth of these assumptions, must be ignorant of the discipline of dissenting societies."—pp. 317, 318.

We tender to Mr. Thorn our grateful acknowledgments for the

service he has rendered the cause of voluntary Christianity, and we sincerely commend his work to the perusal of our readers.

Composition and Punctuation Familiarly Explained for those who have neglected the study of Grammar. By JUSTICE BRENAN. London: Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange.

A BOOK which we would put into the hand of any young friend whose early education has been neglected—a common sense book, Cobbett-wise, lively, vigorous, useful—brushing away a vast amount of useless technicality, and dealing with the substance of things. We have read it with no small amusement, and not without some instruction. On the question of "shall and will" we doubt the author's philosophy, and believe that he is far from having reached the bottom of the subject—but his discussion of it may be read with interest, and will be found to throw some light on this very dark and intricate nook of English grammar. With his remarks on style and punctuation we fully concur.

The Crisis; or, the great Religious Revolution, and the Fall of the National Churches, &c. By the Rev. B. D. BOGIE, Rector of Lusby. London: Ball.

THIS is an attempt to interpret the main prophecies contained in the Apocalypse—the seals, the trumpets, and the vials—an able attempt, not always successful, it may be, but useful even in its failures. With the general views of this reverend gentleman, we have been much and deeply impressed; and that the word of God contains prophetical intimations of the overthrow of national churches, and that at no distant day, we have long been convinced. It is a remarkable phenomenon, however, to find views of this kind entertained, discussed, and published by a clergyman of the church of England. Voluntary Christianity is not often associated by the clergy with millenarian glory—and the only hand they usually recognise as lifted up against secular establishments of religion is human, not divine. Not so the writer of this volume. He reads the doom of national churches in the visions and utterances of the seer at Patmos—and in the distress of his own church he recognises the fulfilment of prophecy and the righteous judgments of God. We have no doubt he is right. But whether he be so or not, his work will repay perusal.

Dissent and its Inconsistencies. By ALFRED EVANS.

"STALE, flat and unprofitable"—the growl of a creature who happily has neither fangs nor teeth—impotent malice, which would, but cannot.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

1. *The Scottish Congregational Magazine* for November.
2. *Obstructions to Popular Freedom;* a Lecture addressed to the Working Classes of Scotland. By ARCHIBALD BROWNING. Glasgow: R. Miller.
3. *The Principal Difficulties of the Sliding Scale Removed.* By the Rev. THOMAS FARR. London: Ridgway.
4. *A Proper Consideration of the Cause of the Poor,* a Test of Righteous Character. A discourse designed to advance the objects of the Manchester Conference. By THOS. THOMAS of Pontypool. London: Ward.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

At Chichester, on Thursday, the 4th instant, the friends of the independent chapel held a public tea-meeting in the Assembly room. The hall was well filled, between three and four hundred being present. The Rev. W. Malden, on taking the chair, stated that the schools in connexion with his chapel were supported entirely by the proceeds of tea-meetings. The Rev. A. Jones, of Buckland, Portsea, moved that sabbath school instruction has been a blessing to the church and the world, and is among the means employed by Infinite Wisdom to bless mankind with the light of divine knowledge. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Wiltshire. The Rev. Mr. Correlly, of the Wesleyan chapel, moved that tea-meetings are interesting means of supporting voluntary societies formed for the instruction and benefit of the human race. The Rev. John Fullagar, in rising to second the motion, said he liked those meetings because they produced a kindly feeling among christian denominations, because they were in accordance with what is called the "voluntary principle," the only christian principle in upholding the cause of Christ—and because they tend to advance the education and well-being of the great human family. The Rev. G. D. Mudie, of Portsmouth, proposed, that the Bible, and the Bible alone, being the religion of protestants, the meeting rejoices in the efforts which have been made to reduce the Bible printing monopoly, by which the "bread of life" has been cheapened, and Sunday schools have been greatly benefited. The Rev. D. Evans, of Emsworth, having seconded that proposition, it was proposed by the Rev. John Slatherie, of Roland's Castle, that this meeting recognizes the importance of prayer that the blessing of Almighty God may rest on Sabbath school institutions, and on all others which are calculated to counteract evil, destroy monopoly, annihilate slavery, inculcate the principles of universal peace, and advance the reign of truth and righteousness, which was seconded by the Rev. Thomas Sainsbury, of Bosham.

The annual meeting of the Newcastle and Gateshead Religious Freedom Society was held on Wednesday night, in the Nelson-street chapel, Newcastle (Mr. Greaves in the chair), on which occasion there was a numerous attendance. Mr. Potts, secretary, having read the report of the committee (an able and satisfactory document), the Rev. G. Bell moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting approves of the constitution of the Newcastle and Gateshead Religious Freedom Society, and engages to aid in diffusing its principles and to accomplish its objects." The Rev. Joseph Forsyth seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously passed. The Rev. E. Tasker moved:—"That this meeting regards ecclesiastical establishments as at variance with the spiritual nature of Christ's kingdom, and as the bitter root from which spring up the iniquitous church rate, the inquisitorial ecclesiastical courts, the avaricious and ambitious schemes of church extension and sectarian education, together with all the evils by which religious freedom is invaded." The Rev. E. Giles, of Leeds, seconded the motion, and entered into a lengthened detail of the persecution of the Danish baptists. The Rev. D. C. Browning (secession minister) moved:—"That the meeting has heard of the persecution by the authorities of Denmark of the Danish baptist ministers, Messrs. Peter and Adolph Monster, and P. G. Ryder, in Copenhagen, and P. Andreas and Rasmus Störgenson, in Langeland, with feelings of reprobation and regret, believing them to be most antichristian, inhuman, and unjust, entirely unworthy of a civilised country and an enlightened age; and regards the conduct of the sufferers as a noble exemplification of christian devotedness and magnanimity, and such as entitles them to the gratitude and admiration of Christians of all denominations and in all ages of the world." Seconded by Mr. W. Rowntree (a member of the society of friends), and carried. The officers of the Society for the ensuing year were then appointed, and a vote of thanks passed to Mr. Giles for his noble efforts in the cause of religious freedom.

On Sunday, November 7th, two sermons were preached by the Rev. Andrew Leslie, missionary from Monghyr, in aid of the Baptist Missionary Society. In the afternoon, in the baptist chapel, Burslem, and in the evening, in the baptist chapel, Hanley, Staffordshire. The collections, &c., amounted to nearly sixteen pounds.

On Wednesday, November 3d, the ordination of the Rev. S. W. Stone, B.A., took place, to the pastorate of the baptist church, at Ashton-under-Lyne, when the Revds. R. Cameron of Blackburn, D. Casewell of Oldham, F. Smith of Staleybridge, T. Dawson of Bacup, and R. Calvert of Hyde, took parts of the devotional exercises. The Rev. J. M'Pherson of Salendine Nook, delivered the introductory discourse on the nature of a christian church; the Rev. W. F. Burchell of Rochdale, proposed the usual questions and offered the ordination prayer; the Rev. J. Acworth, M.A., president of Horton college, delivered the charge, and the Rev. C. M. Birrell, of Liverpool, preached to the church and congregation.

On Tuesday, the 26th of October, the new baptist chapel, Bridge-street, Banbury, Oxon, was opened for divine worship, and the numbers of persons who attended from the surrounding villages evidently proved that great interest had been excited towards this new cause. Prayer meetings were held in the morning at six and seven o'clock; and excellent sermons were preached on Tuesday morning and evening, by the Rev. Messrs. Gray of Northampton, Daniel of Ramsgate, and Giles of Leeds (who kindly consented to preach for the Rev. J. P. Mursell, who was prevented by illness); on the Wednesday by the Revds. F. A. Cox, D.D., LL.D., B. Godwin, J. H. Hinton, M.A.; and on the following Sabbath day, by the Rev. T. Newman, of Shortwood. The collections amounted to near £100, and, considering the great exertions made previously, were considered excellent. The new school rooms were opened last Lord's day.

On Tuesday, the 2nd inst., the Rev. Joseph Heathcote, late of Lyndhurst, Hampshire, was ordained over the general baptist church in Water-lane, Great Berkhamstead, Herts, when the Rev. Thomas Hodge, independent minister of Castle-street chapel, Berkhamstead, opened the solemn service by reading and prayer. The Rev. J. H. Brooks, of Ridgmount, Beds., delivered the introductory dicourse, in which he gave a lucid and able exposition of the principles of nonconformity. The Rev. Edward Stevenson, of Chesham, Bucks, asked the questions, and received Mr. Heathcote's confession of faith. The Rev. W. Payne, of Chesham, offered up the ordination prayer, and the Rev. J. Goadby, of Leicester, gave a very affectionate charge to the newly ordained minister. In the evening, the Rev. — Thomas, independent, Chesham, read and prayed, and the Rev. T. Stevenson, of Leicester, preached an excellent sermon to the church.

BIRTH.

Nov. 8, the lady of the Rev. JULIUS MARK, of Chelmsford, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Nov. 2. at St. George's church, Viscount CAMPDEN, eldest son of the Earl of Gainsborough, to the Lady IDA HAY, daughter of the Earl of Errol.

Oct. 28, at the Friends' Meeting House, Sansom Fields, Worcester, JOHN MARSHALL ALBRIGHT, son of William Albright, of Charlbury, Oxon, to CAROLINE WESTCOMBE, daughter of S. T. Westcombe (deceased), of Worcester.

Oct. 31, at the Countess of Huntingdon's chapel, Bath, by the Rev. John Owen, Mr. JOHN OWEN CLARKE, eldest son of the Rev. Owen Clarke, late minister of Somerset Street chapel, in that city, to Miss LUCY L. VINCENT, daughter of the late Mr. Vincent, of Weston.

Nov. 3. at the Independent Chapel, Devizes, by the Rev. Richard Elliott, the Rev. ROBERT CHAMBERLAIN, of Swanage, to ELIZABETH, second daughter of the late John Slade, Esq., of Devizes.

DEATHS.

Aug. 22, at Dominica, the Rev. JOHN CAMERON, Wesleyan missionary, in the 34th year of his age, a victim to the prevalent fever.

Nov. 1, at Baxterley Hall, near Atherstone, the Right Hon. Louisa, Countess of KINTORE, the beloved wife of B. North Arnold, Esq., M.D.

Nov. 2, at his residence at Bath, in his 76th year, Rear-Admiral J. W. Holland.

Oct. 27. after a lingering illness, the wife of Mr. JOHN TAYLOR of Stebbing Ford, Essex. She was for thirty years a useful and consistent member of the church of Christ at Stebbing, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Jos. Morison, who strikingly improved her death on Sunday afternoon last, from 1 Peter i. 4, "An inheritance—*reserved* in heaven for you."

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, November 5.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act 6 & 7 Wm. IV., cap. 85:—

Salem chapel, Barnesley, Yorkshire. S. Warberton, superintendent registrar.

Borough road chapel, Southwark. J. Fitch, superintendent registrar.

INSOLVENTS.

BUGG, GEORGE, Exmouth street, Clerkenwell, carpenter, Nov. 5.

PARKER, WILLIAM, Hockley, Nottingham, grocer, Nov. 4.

SAUNDERS, PETER, Kingston-upon-Hull, merchant, Nov. 5.

STRAKER, WILLIAM, 443, West Strand, bookseller, Nov. 4.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

BRIGHT, WILLIAM OLIVER, late of Chancery lane, and of Judd place, attorney at law.

BANKRUPTS.

BRIGHT, EDWARD, Picket street, Strand, draper, to surrender Nov. 20, Dec. 17: solicitors, Messrs. Sole, Aldermanbury.

BROOKS, JAMES, Manchester, grocer, Nov. 22, Dec. 17: solicitors, Messrs. Norris and Co., 19, Bartlett's buildings, Holborn, London, and Mr. John Norris, Manchester.

CASSELL, JOHN HENRY, Mill wall, Poplar, naptha seller, Nov. 17, Dec. 17: solicitors, Messrs. Grimaldi and Co., Copthall buildings.

CALLIER, HENRY, Bath, nurseryman, Nov. 17, Dec. 17: solicitors, Messrs. Rickards and Walker, 29, Lincoln's inn fields, London, and Mr. H. E. Drake, Bath.

DAVY, JOSIAH, Sheffield, draper, Nov. 15, Dec. 17: solicitors, Mr. Fiddey, Temple, London, and Mr. T. Branson, Sheffield.

DIX, BENJAMIN, jun., 3, Roebuck place, Great Dover street, Southwark, builder, Nov. 16, Dec. 17: solicitors, Mr. T. J. Foord, Pinners' hall, Old Broad street, and Messrs. J. and T. Gole, 49, Lime street, Leadenhall street.

GLASCOTT, MARY, GEORGE MINSHAW, and THOMAS TOWNSEND, Great Garden street, Whitechapel road, copper merchants, Nov. 16, Dec. 17: solicitor, Mr. Phillips, 31, Lombard street.

JONES, RICHARD WILLIAM HUGH, late of Castlenan and Mortlake, Surrey, and now of Bayswater terrace, Middlesex, coal merchant, Nov. 12, Dec. 17: solicitor, Mr. Guillaume, 14, Walbrook.

MELLS, WILLIAM, late of Manchester, and TURLAY, JOHN, Manchester, tailors, Nov. 22, Dec. 17: solicitors, Mr. H. Hammond, Furnival's inn, London, and Messrs. E. and R. Bennett, Manchester.

A YOUNG LADY who has been unexpectedly deprived of a Home, feels anxious to engage herself as Companion to a Lady, or to take the entire charge of one or two little children in a pious Dissenting Family. She would endeavour to render herself generally useful. A Home being the most essential object, a very small Salary would be expected.

Address, by letter, M. A., 27, Duncan Terrace, Islington.

PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY.

A LECTURE on this Subject will be given on Friday evening, Nov. 12, at SEVEN o'clock, at the Lower Room, Exeter Hall, by F. B. BARTON, B.A., of the University of Cambridge; with a view to the forming of an Association for the Promotion of Practical Christianity in our Institutions, Laws, Government, and the general Principles and Practices of Society.

SUMMER WINES, sound, pure, and of good flavour, though not professed to be of high character, are peculiarly adapted for this season of the year.—Claret, 30s. per dozen; Hock, Moselle, Sauterne, and Barsac, 36s. per dozen; Sparkling Champagne, 54s. per dozen. HENEKEY, KISLINGBURY, and CO.

Gray's Inn Wine Establishment, 23, High Holborn.

Just published, price Sixpence,

A DISCOURSE designed to advance the Objects of the Manchester Conference, delivered Sept. 12, 1841, at Pontypool. By THOS. THOMAS, President of the Baptist Theological Institution.

London: WARD and Co., 27, Paternoster Row.

OUR FEMALE SERVANTS.

By the Rev. HENRY EDWARDS.

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"Contains some excellent remarks."—*Revivalist.*

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A HISTORY OF BAPTISM,

both from Inspired and Uninspired Writings. By ISAAC TAYLOR HINTON, of Saint Louis, United States. Revised and recommended by JOHN HOWARD HINTON, M.A.

"For as many of you as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ."—*Paul.*

"Sacra theologia et religio res est simplex et nuda: quam tamen prave quidem convertunt in artem difficillimam."—*Gregory Nazianzen.*

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Valuable Property, Haymarket, Leicester.

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By B. PAYNE and SON, at the George Hotel, Leicester, on Wednesday the 24th day of November, 1841, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to such Conditions as will be then and there produced.

All that Messuage or Tenement with the Grocer's Shop, Warehouse, Yard, Stable, Outbuildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situate in the Haymarket, Leicester, now, and for many years past, in the occupation of Mr. Rowland Austin.

And also all that other Messuage or Tenement adjoining the above property, with the outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging, late in the occupation of Mr. Slade, Druggist.

A large wholesale and retail grocery business has been, for nearly sixty years, carried on upon part of the above premises, which may be very advantageously continued. The situation is an excellent one, and an opportunity, which seldom occurs, is now presented to any person desirous of commencing business.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

This periodical has now reached that state of perfection which makes eulogium valueless. As a weekly periodical devoted to literature and the arts, it is decidedly the best of the present day.—*British Queen.*

Of all the cheap periodicals of the present day, this appears to us at once the most useful and entertaining. Without being at all political, we are glad to see that it enforces sound opinions on the subject of commerce.—*London Journal of Commerce.*

Chambers's London Journal is a periodical thoroughly imbued with the principles of genuine liberalism and pure morality.—*Weekly Express.*

An excellent periodical.—*Morning Post.*

We have no hesitation in saying that this serial is one of the best that has ever been issued from the press, as much on account of the editorial acumen in its original and selected articles, as for the general value which those articles intrinsically possess. "Chambers's London Journal" is, in fact, an extraordinary combination of learning, science, and philosophy, all embodied in language of the most popular and agreeable kind.—*Liverpool Chronicle.*

It is really a publication for the people, embracing numerous topics that cannot fail to be perused with interest by every individual who seeks rational amusement and valuable information for himself, or is solicitous for the promulgation of literature and science among the rising generation.—*The World.*

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